# Policeman killed, 12 wounded in Edsa shootout

STORY IN METRO, PAGE A21

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## Mad about 'lechon'

**By Mei Magsino**
*PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

PAG PISTAHAN NYO AKO!

BALAYAN, Batangas—A mad revelry characterized the annual festival yesterday in this town, which is traditionally marked by, among other things, a parade of

MAD/A6

# US general will bet you Sabaya is dead

## Singapore news item belied

**By Julie S. Alipala**
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*
**and Martin P. Marfil**

**DEFENSE Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday sought to stop renewed speculation that bandit leader Abu Sabaya survived Friday's encounter off the coast of Zamboanga del Norte.**

"I am convinced of Abu Sabaya's demise," Reyes said in a carefully worded statement.

He got an assist from the commander of US forces taking part in the Balikatan military exercises. Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster told reporters in Zamboanga City the US military was sure the self-styled Abu Sayyaf spokesperson died in the June 21 encounter.

"I'll bet my month's paycheck on that," Wurster said.

Wurster said he was willing to offer his salary to anyone who could prove that Sabaya was still alive.

The categorical statements from Reyes and Wurster came after the Singapore Straits Times yesterday reported that Sabaya had allegedly been sighted in Maluso town in Basilan and was "expected to give a statement in coming days."

"I have no reason to doubt the findings of our field units that established the fate of Abu Sabaya and his two other cohorts," Reyes said in his statement.

His remark was echoed by Naval Forces South commander Ernesto de Leon.

"I'm confident in the capability of our men and the way they did the operation," De Leon said, adding: "I challenge the Abu Sayyaf to prove us otherwise. They may develop an impostor, but we are sure we got Sabaya dead!"

"Let's wait for Neptune to release Sabaya," he said in Filipino.

Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, chief of the Southern Command, presented as additional

US/A17

## Pirates, not Abus, holding 3 Indons

**By Martin P. Marfil**

A SULU town mayor and his congressman-son are negotiating with a band of pirates for the release of three Indonesian seamen they abducted last week, according to officials.

Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, head of the Armed Forces public information office, yesterday said the hostages were being held by a certain Commander Walub, a notorious pirate based in Lahing-Lahing, Sulu.

"The group that abducted the three Indonesians is not the Abu Sayyaf," Servando told defense reporters. "Negotiations are being done to secure their safe release."

He said Luuk Mayor Abdurahman Arbison and his congressman-son, Munir, were in the thick of negotiations with Walub.

Servando said Walub and his group were hiding in the hinterlands of Lahing-Lahing with their captives.

On June 17, 11 heavily armed men on board three speedboats intercepted an Indonesian tugboat towing a barge laden with coal near Basilan.

The gunmen seized four Indonesian crewmen—Muntu Jacobus Winowatan, the boat's skipper; Julkipli, chief officer;

PIRATES/A17

## Illegal drug charge filed vs Ecleo

**By Jolene R. Bulambot**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

CEBU CITY—Detained cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr. was slapped with another criminal charge yesterday, this time for possession of an illegal drug.

Police charged Ecleo, "supreme master" of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA), with violating the Dangerous Drugs Act. Three sachets of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) were found Friday among his belongings during mandatory inspection upon his commitment to the Bagong Buhay Rehabilitation Center (BBRC).

But in the preliminary investigation of the case held at the BBRC and filed by the police with the city prosecutor's office, Ecleo denied ownership of the prohibited drug.

He told reporters he would

ILLEGAL/A17

REAL-LIFE groom Mikey Arroyo, President Macapagal's eldest son, takes a new leading lady, Angela Montenegro, at wedding rites in centuries-old St. Augustine Church in Lubao, Pampanga. EDWIN BACASMAS

## Mikey-Angela wedding simple, solemn

**By Tonette Orejas**
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*

LUBAO, Pampanga—Starkly unlike the extravagant and pompous wedding of a daughter of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos but not quite as austere as the late President Diosdado Macapagal would have wanted it.

This best describes the wedding of Juan Miguel Arroyo, 33, and Angela Montenegro, 28, in the 430-year-old St. Augustine Church here on Monday morning.

"I think it's just right," said Tarlac Rep. Benigno Aquino III whose mother, former President Corazon Aquino, stood as one of the wedding's principal sponsors.

"It had the proper dignity and the solemnity. This could have easily turned into a circus," Aquino said.

In the churchyard and inside the church, more than 5,000 *cabalen* had gathered as early as 4 a.m. to catch a glimpse of the First Family and the rest of the wedding party as they arrived from Mimosa resort where they stayed the night.

A few minutes before 10 a.m., the crowd cheered the arrival of the groom and his mother, President Macapagal-Arroyo, who glowed in a celadon green Joe Salazar terno.

At 10 a.m. on the dot, Diosdado Ignacio Jose Maria or Dato, Mikey's younger brother and best man, began the march.

First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo appeared nervous and

MIKEY-ANGELA/A16

## *Strictly private, no star-studded affair*

**By Tonette Orejas**
*PDI Central Luzon Desk*

LUBAO, Pampanga—The wedding of presidential son Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo and Angela Montenegro was no star-studded affair.

Kept strictly private for relatives and family friends—800 of them—only a handful of prominent personalities were invited to the couple's wedding here.

They included former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos and Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste, who were among 10 of principal sponsors.

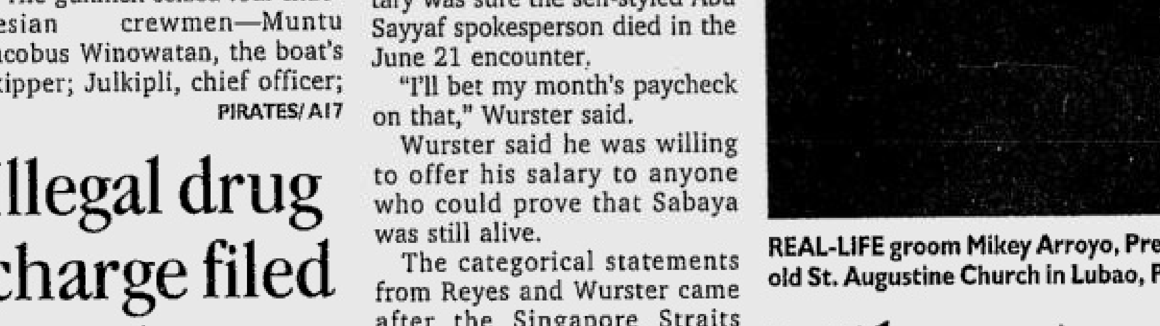
Mikey's colleagues in the entertainment business were not around. If actress Ana Roces was there, it was because she served as a secondary sponsor, being married to Angela's elder brother Greg.

Actor Roi Vinzon, Arroyo's lone opponent in the May 2001 vice gubernatorial elections, showed up though, reportedly at his own insistence.

No starring róles at the wedding either for Judy Ann Santos, the groom's favorite leading lady, and LJ Moreno, his love interest in his recent movie "Di Kita Ma-reach."

Gov. Manuel "Lito" Lapid,

STRICTLY/A16



BRITISH missionary Ronald Ernest Fable: "Even if they are sick or have defects, children deserve to be loved." ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

## UK missionaries live real-life 'fable' in child rescue center

**By Blanche S. Rivera**

RONALD Ernest Fable and his wife Shirley Anne gave up everything in England 10 years ago to look after orphans in the Philippines.

Last month, they got the shock of their life. The British Ambassador to Manila paid them a visit to tell them Queen Elizabeth II had made them Members of the Order of the British Empire. An MBE is one of the United Kingdom's highest honors.

"We were very, very shocked. We were just doing what God has called us to do," Ernie told the INQUIRER.

The road to the Shalom Bata Rescue Center in Merville Park, Parañaque City, started 15 years ago. In 1987, with a brood of three daughters, Ernie, 56, and Shirley, 52, wanted a fourth child. But traveling with Ernie as missionaries in Germany and Portugal, Shirley suffered a miscarriage.

The accident eventually led them an orphanage in Portugal. The healing visit proved to be a turning point. In Portugal, the Fables realized their true calling: that God wanted them to take care of neglected children who hunger for a family's love and affection.

As it happened, the Christian International Refuge Missions in Portugal was looking for a couple to run the Little Children's Home in the Philippines, and the Fables did not hesitate.

They arrived in the Philippines in 1992 to serve as executive directors of the orphanage in Antipolo. They stayed on for 18 months, until they decided it was time to put up their own home for abandoned infants

UK/A6

# Second FRONT PAGE

PANO NA YUNG PINA-KAWALAN?

## HEADS START ROLLING

# ₱.7M bounty for 3 Crame escapees

**TWO jailguards were sacked and two senior officers suspended for negligence that led to the escape of an alleged kidnap gang leader, the Philippine National Police announced yesterday.**

PNP chief Leandro Mendoza said in a statement that jailguards Dante Repulledo and Rico Cuánico were dismissed from the service while their officers, Insp. Bryant Demot and Senior Insp. Patricia Aromin were suspended for three months.

Mendoza also said 24 members of the police Special Action Force had been ordered shipped to a hardship post in the Cordillera region.

The sanctions, Mendoza said, were for allowing suspected Pentagon Gang leader Faisal Marohombsar and two other suspected kidnappers, Abdul Macaumpang and Rolando Patino, to escape right under their noses.

Mendoza announced a manhunt for the recapture of Marohombsar, as well as cash rewards for any information that would lead authorities to the three escapees. The reward for Marohombsar, Mendoza announced, was P500,000. The bounty for Patino and Macaumpang bounty was placed at P100,000 each.

The three had literally walked out of their detention cell at the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf) headquarters in Camp Crame on June 19, earning the police public ridicule.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto yesterday placed the PNP top brass under investigation for alleged complicity in the escape.

Desierto said the PNP hierarchy would be investigated by a four-man panel under the Office of the Ombudsman for the Military. He did not name names, but indicated that incoming PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane could be summoned.

Ebdane, who currently heads the Naktaf, had admitted that the jailbreak was an "inside job," but said it might have been aimed at derailing his takeover of the PNP on July 4.

The police had not released an official account of the escape, but Marohombsar boasted in a radio interview on June 20 that his jailors had been asleep.

"I escaped ... because the guards were sleeping. I rushed to the airport to catch the early morning flight to Davao City (on the main southern island of Mindanao)," Marohombsar said.

He was still in Davao, Marohombsar claimed, but Deputy Director General Edgardo Aglipay said the fugitive could still be in Metro Manila.

The Pentagon group was behind the abduction last year of an Italian Roman Catholic priest and a group of Chinese men working on a dam project.

Two of the Chinese died in a botched rescue late last year, while Father Giuseppe Pierantoni was rescued in April.

The gang, reportedly composed of former Muslim separatist guerrillas, is still holding hostage Yoon Jae-Kun, a South Korean businessman seized in February.

Marohombsar had been arrested while visiting a Muslim community in Manila in February. ***With reports from Martin P. Marfil and Michael Lim Ubac***

# *Biazon: Probe 'dirty tricks' vs Ebdane*

**By Cynthia D. Balana**

SEN. Rodolfo Biazon yesterday called for an investigation of the "dirty tricks" pulled against Philippine National Police Chief Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, following the escape of Pentagon gang leader Faizal Marohombsar and two other kidnapping suspects.

Biazon was reacting to Ebdane's statement that the escape from the National Anti-Crime Commission's Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf) headquarters in Camp Crame was an inside job. Ebdane is the current Naktaf head.

The senator said the escape could not be attributed to mere laxity of the jail guards because the detention facility was built to ensure maximum security.

"Politics existing within the highest echelon of the PNP . . . is beyond comprehension," Biazon said, adding that failure to pinpoint those who were responsible would perpetuate the conspiracy.

Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada Jr. advised Ebdane to "watch his back."

In a statement, Lozada said Ebdane's detractors were "determined to see him go down." He recalled recent full-page newspaper advertisements supposedly paid for by junior police officers against the Naktaf chief's forthcoming assumption of the PNP top post.

In Davao City Saturday night, Justice Secretary Hernani Perez vowed that heads would roll at the PNP for the escape of the three suspected kidnappers. ***With Christine Avendano, and Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

# Sandigan censures former Estrada lawyer

**By Volt Contreras**

A FORMER lawyer of deposed President Joseph Estrada got a dressing down from the Sandiganbayan yesterday, after she accused one of Estrada's court-appointed lawyers of being in cahoots with state prosecutors.

The "outburst" by Cleofe Verzola, one of nine lawyers the ex-President dismissed on Feb. 27 after he refused to recognize the anti-graft court, came in an interview with reporters yesterday morning.

In the end, sources said Verzola apologized to the court in a closed-door session for her remarks against counsel de officio Irene Jurado. Jurado confirmed that Verzola apologized to the court, "but not to me."

The latest fracas in the historic plunder trial started at recess, midway through the day's proceedings, when Verzola told reporters that Jurado's line of questioning of witness Carmencita Itchon tended to "make the case very clear for the prosecution" instead of "destroying the testimony of the witness."

"She has been asking questions that open her (the witness) up," Verzola said, adding that this explained why prosecutors hardly objected to Jurado's cross-examination.

Jurado's queries to Itchon had mostly concerned the calls made by alleged jueteng auditor Yolanda Ricaforte to Estrada, his son Jinggoy, and Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

Verzola also noted that Jurado has a son, Cicero Jurado, who is now a state prosecutor with the Office of the Ombudsman, Estrada's lead accuser. She said Jurado would also often go to her son's office on the 5th floor of the Sandiganbayan Building after each hearing.

"I'll have my way with this case, I'll ask the court that she be disqualified," Verzola said. "She should not be there."

When asked for reaction, Jurado retorted: "She's just envious because she's been asking us to nominate her to be part of the (de officio) defense panel."

When session resumed at about 10:30 a.m., Jurado approached the bench and spoke to the justices.

It was at this point that Assistant Ombudsman Dennis Villa-Ignacio, who was within hearing of Jurado's muffled exchange with the justices, said prosecutors would have no say on the "personal matter" between Verzola and Jurado.

Associate Justice Minita Nazario, the presiding chair, then called for an executive session with Verzola and both defense and prosecution panels. Media persons and other observers were led out of the courtroom.

Trial resumed after about 30 minutes but the issue was no longer discussed. Instead, the court continued Itchon's cross-examination, this time by another Estrada counsel de officio Prospero Crescini.

After the hearing, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto told reporters that Verzola "apologized to the court for having said her own impressions of Jurado."

The justices, he said, "warned her" as they were also "affected" by her remarks since they appointed Jurado for the Estrada cases.

Flatly denying insinuations that's she was conniving with prosecutors, Jurado said it's improper for lawyers to openly question each other's methods and credibility.

She admitted seeing her son often after the hearings—but just to enjoy the lunch he had prepared for her at the Ombudsman's satellite office at the Sandiganbayan.

"Is it bad for a son to treat her mother to lunch?" she said.

Verzola begged off from further media interviews when she left the courtroom after the hearing.

A source privy to the closed-door session said it was the women justices, Nazario and Teresita De Castro, who were most vocal against Verzola's actions.

# Pope will come, says former Vatican envoy

## *His health is biggest concern*

**By Blanche S. Rivera**

THE PEACE and order problems will not stop Pope John Paul II from coming to the Philippines for the World Meeting of Families in January next year.

Former ambassador to the Vatican Henrietta de Villa expressed confidence that the Pope would be strong enough to visit the country for the second time on Jan. 22-26.

She said the Pope has always held a special place in his heart for Filipinos after he was warmly received in 1995 by more than five million people for the World Youth Day, which was held in Manila.

She said that more than the security problem, the Pope's health, which is failing, would be the biggest concern of the Catholic Church.

"He will come. Even in 1995, we didn't know for sure if he would come because he was ailing. But he came. He is a very strong person," De Villa said in an interview at the formal launching of the Bigkis Youth festival at the SM Megamall last Sunday.

She said the Pope's itinerary showed that despite his ailing condition, he would be visiting Canada, Guatemala and Mexico this year for the beatification of some saints.

"He has strength that we cannot understand, and an indomitable will," De Villa said, adding that it is a "very great thing" that the Pope has chosen Manila again to host a special event.

She said the Pope always expressed his appreciation of the Filipinos' two greatest gifts: faith and family. He recognizes the Filipinos visiting Vatican with a greeting of "Mabuhay."

She said the Pope had no second thoughts at all about going to the Philippines despite the kidnappings and terrible peace and order situation in some areas.

The organizing committee for the World Day of Families, however, has yet to discuss with the government the security preparations for the Pope's visit.

De Villa said security would be "intensive" and that the visit would require "extreme measures" to ensure the Pope's safety, although the Pope himself will not be bringing in his own security personnel.

The Pope travels with cardinals, his doctor and those known as the gentlemen of the Pope. His visit, however, is also considered a state visit because he is recognized as the head of the Vatican.

"I think this (traveling without security men) is to show his total dependence on God for protection," she said.

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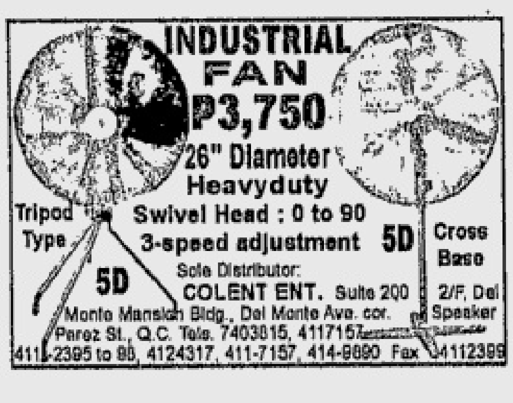
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# Will the 'Big J' break Senate deadlock?

**By Rocky Nazareno**

IS he, in fact, the "weakest link"?

With another kind of numbers game intensifying in the Senate each day, opposition Sen. Robert Jaworski, said to be the most prone to defect to the administration's side, yesterday said he was open to exploring the forging of a working coalition.

Jaworski, in a press conference, said such a coalition might be the only way to resolve the Senate impasse. In which case, he stressed, the administration bloc "should not look at (the opposition) as its enemy."

The real enemies, he pointed out, were "poverty and the lack of peace and order."

Likewise, he expressed certainty that the Senate deadlock on the 12-12 issue could "not go on forever."

Jaworski is being regarded as the most likely to cross over because of close family ties with allies of the Macapagal administration.

He is the son-in-law of administration Sen. Ramon Revilla who, coming home recently from medical treatment in the United States, reiterated his support for the President and Senate President Franklin Drilon.

Jaworski is also the father-in-law of a daughter of former Tarlac Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, who helped Ms Macapagal secure the presidency.

A Senate source said Jaworski was really poised to make the move at the height of EDSA II. "But he was pelted with debris and taunted by the crowds," the source said. "He may have felt bad about that."

Jaworski dismissed reports that he—or anyone in the opposition—was "jumping ship.".

While he saw no need for intervention by the judiciary to end the Senate stalemate, Jaworski did not sound fully confident. "How I wish it could be settled among ourselves," he said.

Jaworski hailed the results of a recent Social Weather Station survey, which showed that only Drilon, among high-ranking government officials, retained a favorable net approval rating.

# Hundreds of sub-Cabinet posts open, says Palace

**By Carlito Pablo**

HUNDREDS of sub-Cabinet positions are waiting to be filled, and a search committee is hard at work everyday to match them up with names.

This was revealed yesterday by Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable, concurrent head of the Presidential Management Staff, which processes appointment papers.

Afable made the disclosure during his regular press briefing, while fielding questions about persistent talk of another Cabinet revamp following the resignation of former Transportation Secretary Pantaleon "Bebot" Alvarez.

There would be no immediate Cabinet-level changes, Afable maintained, even as administration officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, claimed that a major reshuffle was imminent. "But below Cabinet-level," Afable said, "(the vacancies) go by the hundreds."

Various sources said that a senior Cabinet official, presumably Foreign Affairs Secretary Teofisto "Tito" Guingona, would replace Alvarez at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Guingona's post at the Department of Foreign Affairs was reportedly being offered to opposition Sen. Blas Ople, and the Department of Interior and Local Government to opposition Sen. Vicente Sotto.

Both Ople and Sotto were said to have rejected the offers.

Afable strongly denied there were such offers made, saying, "the President is not engaged in such inducements."

If the offers had been made by "other quarters" in the administration, Afable said, "they were not authorized" to do so.

In a previous interview, a Malacañang insider confidently said "two to three" opposition senators were expected to switch loyalties over the next few days.

Asked how actively the administration was courting the possible converts, the source said, "*Walang manliligaw kung walang magpapaligaw* (they wouldn't be wooed if they were not willing to be wooed)."

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# Palace asks 2 water firms to defer hikes

**By Dona Z. Pazzibugan**

FEARING massive public protest, Malacañang has asked Metro Manila's two water concessionaires to defer implementation of their rate hikes planned for next month.

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. said the public would surely protest the increases since it is already burdened by high electric bills.

"We have seen the effect of the PPA (purchased power adjustment) on the public; the public is really suffering," he said.

"We would like to urge and encourage all public utility companies to try to at least defer these rate hikes so the public can find relief at this time," he went on.

Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI), which services Metro Manila's west zone, asked for a P6 per cubic meter increase. Manila Water Co. Inc. (MWCI), which services the east zone, asked for a P1 per cubic meter increase.

The regulatory Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System has hinted it may approve a lower rate hike. It is expected to make a decision before the end of the month.

Afable said they have heard that the Toll Regulatory Board also wanted to raise the toll rates for the North and South expressways.

Afable said the Cabinet would look for "some forms of relief" for water consumers, in the same way it tried to alleviate the suffering of electric consumers.

"Of course (the government) cannot interfere (in the operations of MWSI and MWCI) because there are so many factors involved, such as the viability of these firms.

"What the government can do is to work with these firms and look for other forms of relief, just as what happened in the PPA," Afable said.

The Social Weather Stations has attributed President Macapagal's plunge in the latest popularity survey to the public's outcry over high electric bills caused by the PPA charge.

She ordered the state-owned National Power Corp. to cut its PPA charge by 1.25 per kilowatt hour last month.

But this hardly reduced electric bills, as the President had hoped.

The petitions of MWSI and MWCI were actually in July last year, being the third in a series of rate increases to allow both firms to recover their foreign exchange losses from August 1997 to December 2000, and in 2001.

# PCGG stumbles on forgotten cache of Marcos documents

**By Donna S. Cueto**

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government has discovered a cache of old Swiss documents on hidden Marcos accounts, including the Marcoses' Grand Cayman accounts, that could involve hundreds of millions—if not billions—of dollars.

PCGG commissioner Ruben Carranza Jr. said that there were more than 4,000 pages of these bank documents that would have to be studied by the PCGG. He said that the Swiss authorities gave these documents to the Philippine government years ago but these had been forgotten and were just stashed inside the building of the Office of the Solicitor General in Makati.

The documents were discovered by former PCGG commissioner Alex Gesmundo some three years ago. It took Gesmundo about a year to collate the documents. It was only now that the PCGG has started to look into this new set of documents that touched on huge accounts of the Marcoses in several countries, including those in Grand Cayman.

One of more than a thousand entries in the index of these bank documents prepared by Gesmundo was for a "repayment of trustee time deposit" on Aug. 13, 1982 at the Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken Goetibong involving $4,142,019.68, under account transaction vb-353.

Carranza said that there was no inventory of these Swiss documents which were just lying around in the OSG building when they were discovered by Gesmundo in 1998.

"It was good that he saw these documents and collated them," he said.

"It took a long time to collate, about a year. There were several files lying there, stashed without logic," he said.

"These were documents given by the Swiss mostly. The problem is that between the time they were given and the time they were compiled here, a lot of things could have happened," PCGG commissioner Carranza said.

He said that he did not know when the documents were actually given by the Swiss, but he believed that the documents were probably more than seven years old.

"How many PCGG chairmen had been appointed since then? *Naka-ilang* PCGG *na*? Nobody really bothered to ask (the question) 'What now?'. (Nobody really bothered) to ask for everything, every document that we've ever received from them (Swiss authorities), (or to) cross-reference them with the documents we got from Malacañang and with what we got in Hawaii," Carranza explained.

"If you're doing that 10 or 16 years later, even if you found out exactly those accounts, many things have happened between now and then—from the time we got those records until today. That's another set of records which we don't have," he stressed.

Asked how the documents were first collated, Carranza said, "You collated based on how you picked it up physically from the corner of that (OSG) building."

"(Sometimes) we don't even know where to begin, or we don't have any idea what your end is supposedly, what you're supposed to find out. *Minsan wala e.* (Sometimes you actually find out nothing,)" he said.

Carranza said that the PCGG did not actually know the extent of the Marcos wealth, or what percentage of the entire Marcos wealth had been discovered so far.

"That's the problem. We don't know actually what is that 100 percent," he said.

"If you know what the 100 percent is, you know what partially you've accomplished. This one it doesn't give you 100 percent," Carranza stressed.

This is perhaps the first time that the PCGG admitted that it still had Swiss documents on the still Marcos accounts that it had not even analyzed.

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# Usec's wife accused of influence peddling

**By Christine Herrera**

THE WIFE of Foreign Undersecretary for Policy Lauro Baja Jr. is being accused of interceding for seven Chinese nationals recommended for exclusion from the Philippines.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said the frequency of Norma Baja's requests forced her to raise the matter to Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. and to Undersecretary Baja himself.

The INQUIRER tried several times yesterday to reach Undersecretary Baja for comment, but his office staff said he was out for a meeting the whole day.

He had yet to return calls as of 5:40 p.m.

In a letter to Guingona, a copy of which was furnished Undersecretary Baja, Domingo said that on June 3 Ms Baja and her friend Mary Co requested the admission of Chinese national Wu Yi Chun, whom immigration officers recommended for exclusion upon his arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Wu was deemed "likely to become a public charge pursuant to the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940, as amended," meaning that he appeared not to have funds for his stay in the Philippines and was likely to become a public burden.

Domingo said she had to overturn the immigration officers' exclusion order because of the representation of Ms Baja, "who introduced herself as the wife of Undersecretary Baja."

The commissioner said that on June 5, Ms Baja and Co again requested the admission of "six aliens," whom she identified as Shi Qing Long, Shi Ming Hui, Xu Yi Jia, Wu Guo Ji, Lu Yuan Xing and Wu Xiu Tuan.

The seven aliens were released from detention at the Naia terminal upon Domingo's order.

Domingo told Guingona that "in deference to Undersecretary Baja," she allowed the deferred admission of the aliens.

But she said this was "against my better judgment, since their being profiled as likely to become a public charge was made by immigration officers who had the best opportunity, qualification and capability to determine (this)."

"In this regard, considering the number of aliens being requested for admission this time and the frequency of the two requests, it is my belief that this should be brought to the attention of Your Excellency and Undersecretary Baja," Domingo said.

She attached to her letter the two women's joint affidavit stating that they would "support and guarantee that (the aliens) will not be a public burden and public charge" here.

In a separate letter to Domingo, Co said the aliens were viewed as a potential public charge because they did not have money at hand.

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, June 25, 2002
12th Week in Ordinary Time

**1st Reading:** 2 K 19:9-11, 14-21, 31-35, 36
**Gospel:** Mt 7:6, 12-14

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not give what is holy to the dogs, or throw your pearls to the pigs: they might trample on them and even turn on you and tear you to pieces.

So, do to others whatever you would that others do to you: there you have the Law and the Prophets.

Enter through the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many go that way. How narrow is the gate that leads to life and how rough the road; few there are who find it."

**Commentary**

*We are often tempted to take the broad road of corruption and manipulation, the road of pleasure and easy life. "Broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many go that way." In no instance did Jesus say if those who would share in eternal life would be many or few. Certainly he said many times that "very few would be chosen from among the many called." That means that among the many people privileged to meet him, few would experience the Gospel's riches and bring forth fruit in themselves and for others. Many stray from leading a life in which Jesus is the center. They waste the gifts of God and apparently become useless for the Kingdom. Yet, even so, they are not deprived of God's mercy. Not all will be lost.*

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## SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

**POLITICAL LAW (CONSTITUTIONAL LAW)—Right to speedy disposition of cases; determination wne right violated—**The right to a speedy disposition of cases, like the right to a speedy trial, is deemed violated only when the proceedings is attended by vexatious, capricious and oppressive delays; or when unjustified postponements of the trial are asked for and secured, or when without cause or unjustifiable motive, a long period of time is allowed to elapse without the party having his case tried. In the determination of whether or not that right has been violated, the factors that may be considered and balanced are: the length of the delay; the reasons for such delay; the assertion or failure to assert such right by the accused; and the prejudice caused by the delay. A mere mathematical reckoning of the time involved, therefore, would not be sufficient. In the application of the constitutional guarantee of the right to speedy disposition of cases, particularly regard must also be taken of the facts and circumstances peculiar to each case. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Kapunan, First Division, Ty-Dazo v. *Sandiganbayan*, G.R. No. 143885-86, January 21, 2002]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

## NEWSBRIEFS

### 800 firms seek pay hike exemption

AT LEAST 800 companies, most of them based in Metro Manila, are seeking exemption from the wage hike approved by the regional wage boards starting October last year. Records of the National Wages and Productivity Board (NWPB) showed that 835 firms have applied for exemption, citing financial incapacity to give their workers additional compensation.

Metro Manila firms account for 553 of the total applications while regions 4 and 3 represented 107 and 46 applications, respectively. The NWPB has approved only 59 firms for partial and full exemption as of April 30. Most of the exempted companies are distressed establishments, new business enterprises, exporting firms, retail/service establishments and those facing potential loss. The NWPB saw 852 firms seeking exemption from the P26.50 wage hike approved by the wage boards last year. It approved the application of 542 companies employing 44,000 workers. ***Blanche S. Rivera***

### Drilon maintains approval rating

DRILON

SENATE President Franklin Drilon has maintained his average approval rating based on the latest survey of the Social Weather Stations. Drilon's net approval rating in the May 17-June 3 survey stood at 23 percent, a little less than the 25 percent he got in the March 4-23 survey. However, the survey was conducted before the Senate coup was staged by opposition senators which resulted in a 12-12 split in the Senate. Of the 1,200 respondents, 51 percent were satisfied with Drilon's performance, 20 percent were undecided, and 28 percent were dissatisfied. Drilon got 46 percent approval from the ABC class, 52 percent among D and 48 percent. ***Cynthia D. Balana***

### 'PMAyers' rally behind Mendoza

MENDOZA

THE BOARD of directors of the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association Inc. (PMAAAI) has expressed full support for the appointment of PNP Chief Leandro Mendoza as secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications. In a resolution dated June 19, the PMA alumni leadership described Mendoza as a "highly qualified, very competent and capable officer who has ably demonstrated his outstanding leadership, management expertise and high sense of professionalism." The resolution also noted that President Macapagal has expressed full trust and confidence in Mendoza. A PMA graduate and once president of the PMA alumni association, Mendoza was appointed acting chief of the PNP shortly after the EDSA II revolution in January 2001. The PMAAAI board, headed by Commodore Carlos Agustin AFP (Ret.) as chairman and Col. Romeo D. Lustestica (PA) as secretary, called on all PMAyers to "extend full support and cooperation" to General Mendoza "in leading and managing his respective agencies towards the successful accomplishment of (his) mission." The PMA alumni board also noted that General Mendoza served recently as president of the association. He was No. 3 in the PMA class of 1969.

### Meralco exec hits Transco head

NATIONAL Transmission Co. (NTC) president Asiscio Gonzaga is compromising the supposed independence of Transco in direct violation of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act or Republic Act 9136. "Gonzaga's recent pronouncements in media smacks of irresponsibility, if not ignorance, not befitting the head of a new company 'divorced' from its parent National Power Corp.," Manila Electric Co. vice president and treasurer Rafael Andrada said. Andrada said Gonzaga should "make, a clean break" from "30 years of bureaucratic servitude" at Napocor because he now represents an institution free and separate from the state power utility. "How can Mr. Gonzaga, with his very senior position in NPC, then feign ignorance to all of NPC's official pronouncements. It may be because although he is now Transco head, he acts as expert on NPC cross-subsidies and NPC generation, rather than focusing on his role as transmission provider and system dispatcher. This in itself is an anomalous situation and a direct violation of RA 9135 which specifies that the transmission company be independent of both generation and distribution sectors," the Meralco treasurer said.

### Ateneo to launch economics research unit

ON THE 50th anniversary of Economics at the Ateneo de Manila University, the Ateneo Center for Economics Research and Development (ACERD) is launching the Ateneo Macroeconomics Forecasting Model (AMFM). It is headed by former National Economics Development Authority (NEDA) Director-General and now Ateneo Professor Cielito F. Habito. Through this model, ACERD hopes to provide quarterly economics forecasts and policy analysis to businessmen, policy-makers and civil society members. The AMFM is unique because it aims to clarify links among aggregate economics variables and various social indicators such as poverty incidence, unemployment and expenditures on education, health and nutrition. The launching will be held on July 6, 2002 at 10 a.m. at the Henry Lee Irwin Theater, Loyola Campus, during the Ateneo Economics Alumni Homecoming where Her Excellency President Macapagal, an Ateneo MA alumna and former Economics Professor, will be the keynote speaker.

# DOTC owes NHA ₱900M in rentals for MRT depot

By G. Lacuarta

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communication owes the National Housing Authority P900 million for the lease of its 16-hectare property on North Avenue that serves as depot for the Metro Rail Transit.

Edgardo Pamintuan, NHA general manager, said the DOTC has not paid a single cent to the NHA since a 50-year lease agreement was signed in April 1998. The terms pegged the rent at P1,000 per sq. m. per annum, or P160 million, for the first year. The rent was supposed to escalate at 3 percent per year starting on the second year of the lease up to its 25th year.

Pamintuan said the contract stipulated that the DOTC pay the lease on a quarterly basis. But he said the DOTC has not paid a single cent since the signing of the contract and even after the MRT-Edsa Project has become fully operational.

"The NHA needs to generate funds to be able to pursue the socialized housing program of President (Macapagal) Arroyo, and the rentals from our property being leased by the DOTC for the MRT-Edsa Project could go a long way in building homes for our poor people," Pamintuan said.

He said P900 million could build about 18,000 low-cost housing units, or about 20 percent of the commitment made by President Macapagal in her State of the Nation Address

The property is located across the SM City mall at the corner of Edsa and North Avenue. The complex serves as the depot of the MRT.

Pamintuan said he hoped newly appointed Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza will give priority to the payment of the amount owed to the NHA.

"I am very optimistic that Secretary Mendoza will give due consideration to this matter," he said. "With the fund we could get from DOTC's rentals, the NHA would be able to fast-track the construction and distribution of more houses and lots."

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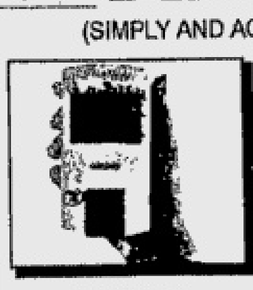

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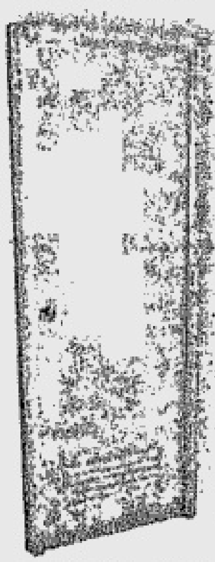

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# UK missionaries live real-life 'fable'

From page A1

and children.

"God opened a bigger door for us as we set aside our own desires," Ernie said. Recalling what he said was his prayer that God use them both for His own purpose, he added: "You will know what God wants you to do."

They registered with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and then went back to England to raise funds for the center. In 1993, they came back and found a place in Moonwalk for around 40 kids 3 years old and younger.

Shalom Bata Rescue Center was formally opened on Feb. 15, 1994. The name Shalom, Ernie said, means peace, wholeness and new life, the very things the Fables' Christian home sought to provide their wards.

Shalom has been the home of such children as Sarah, who was found almost dead inside a Maggi's instant noodle box and is now healthy and happy with her adoptive parents in England.

Or Alshifa, who was a sick baby abandoned at the Philippine General Hospital. Doctors had pronounced her a hopeless case, but prayers and careful nurturing sustained the child. Now 7, Alshifa—now known as Shalom's miracle girl—lives in Italy with her family.

Shalom kids have found families through the Intercountry Adoption Board. Many of them now live in the United States, France, Norway, Switzerland, Italy, England and Denmark; a few were adopted locally.

"It's not a job for us, it's a ministry. You change jobs, but if it's a ministry, you just go on until God tells you not to go on anymore," Ernie said.

In the past eight years, the Fables have found loving Christian families for more than 90 babies.

In February 1999, the Fables put up a second Shalom center in Multinational Village, also in Parañaque. But after some time they decided to keep all the children together, so they decided last year to rent a bigger house in Merville Park to accommodate all their wards.

The couple did their work quietly, but the visit of Ambassador Paul Diamond and recognition by Buckingham Palace—especially on the Queen's Golden Jubilee—is certain to change that.

Diamond visited the Shalom Center last month. Former Ambassador Allan Collins had nominated the missionaries in recognition of their community service in the Philippines.

### Closing down

The MBE has come at a fortuitous time. The Shalom Bata Rescue Center is closing down in October because the Fables have decided to go back to England for good. Ernie is suffering from Parkinson's disease and will need progressive medication.

Shirley, who flew to England last month to find a house for them, said that the time has come for her to look after her husband and give him her full attention.

"Shalom will not die; it will always live in the lives of the children that we cared for. They will remember that they grew up in a Christian home and hopefully, they will teach the values that they learned from us to their own children," Shirley said in a testimony at the Victory Christian Fellowship.

Shalom has around 20 paid staff members and several volunteers. Its operating expenses run to about P500,000 a month, including rent for the house and food and medication/treatment for the sick children.

Ernie said donations from churches and schools in England continue to pour in, and the center has never lacked for anything.

"It just happened. When you're in the will of God, He provides everything that you need," says Ernie.

The Heart of the Matter

You've read the news. If things don't change soon, Pandacan Terminal – our home for the past 80 years – will be shut down on June 30, 2002.

An Ordinance passed by the City of Manila, barely seven months ago, says we can't do our business there, anymore.

Now we have a problem. The Ordinance is clear enough, but so is our commitment. To you. The Authorities are telling us to do something that we know will impact you. That's really the Heart of the Matter. That's why we want you to know how we feel.

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And like you, we go about our work dependably, making and delivering energy products for a living. For your cars, trucks, school buses, the service stations, the factories, the jeepneys...things we all know a lot about. Things that matter. Things we need to have. Things Filipino.

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Then there's the safety issue. We know that some people worry about us, and what we do at Pandacan. So we told them about how we work. We explained it to the local government, and national officials. We showed them how much safer the Terminal is than our own homes; the risk of accidents in our houses is higher than at Pandacan. We proved it, not just with words, but with science, computer models and statistics conducted by independent internationally recognized experts on risk assessment.

The fact is: We have operated safely at Pandacan for decades because we have always followed the call to higher standards.

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* Storing products that burn, but won't explode. No fireballs rocketing beyond the property lines. The Studies confirmed it.

* Building a green buffer zone that separates us even further from the immediate community. Going the extra mile, even though no one told us to. A safe place for families and children to play. Our way to help make Manila green again.

We did all of these things. We kept talking with government officials. And with our business partners. And now with you.

We were – and are – willing proactive partners in all of this. We made our case. We know that safety in Pandacan means doing things carefully, and not being in a hurry. That there is no compromise for safety. Ever. For us – and for you.

We told them, but we're not sure they heard us.

So what else can we do? Keep our options open. Making the right moves wherever it makes sense. We need to do that, not just for us, but because of you.

The clock is ticking. What's at stake is the security and supply of oil products to the Filipino people. This is too important a matter. Everyone needs to be involved, and aware.

We are still willing to work hard to help find a Win-Win solution. We hope we can, but time is running out.

We know what you expect from us. And we will deliver.

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# Mad about 'lechon'

From page A2

*lechon* (roasted pigs).

Police provided tight security to prevent onlookers from attacking the *lechon* listed in the "most decorated" competition, and some companies took pains to protect their entries with barbed wire. But some of the succulent stuff impaled on bamboo poles, such as those sent by Balayan Mayor Manuel Fronda, reached the town church with only the heads intact.

With the townsfolk preoccupied with the parade, the obligatory water dousing to commemorate the baptism of Christ by St. John the Baptist, and the attendant street dancing, no one was around to protest the launch of the fast-food joint McDonald's at the right side of the Balayan Church patio.

The opening of the giant US fast-food icon was timed for the festival. Its construction had been hounded by controversy, the Balayan Church being among the 26 churches in the country declared by the National Museum as national cultural treasures.

But festival organizers were happy to report that with each of the 149 parade participants trotting out from two to five entries, they reached the goal of 200 roasted pigs.

"We got more than we wished for. Next year, it will be bigger," said Filoteo Maningat, *hermano mayor* and chair of the Hermanidad San Juan Bautista, the organization in charge of festivities.

At least 75,000 merrymakers witnessed the *lechon* parade that began at 8 a.m. and lasted until 10:30 a.m. Balayan's population is about 70,000.

The entries of 66 major companies in Batangas and 44 of Balayan's 48 barangays participated. (The other four western barangays where the parade originated did not have to field entries as the center of the celebration was held there.)

Nongovernment organizations and government offices, as well as people's, women's and youth groups, also paraded their *lechon*.

Disco music from two fast-food restaurants filled the air as the parade wended its way from Antorcha Street to the Balayan Church.

### Water guns

"I lost count after 60 *lechon* because of the water guns spraying water in my face," said Jasmin Oñate, the reigning Ms Balayan.

Water dousing has taken a livelier trend, starting as early as 6 a.m. and going strong until night.

Indeed, the revelry provided a showcase of water guns—from the smallest to the most sophisticated—as the townsfolk doused one another and everyone else.

Not even the members of the Philippine National Police band, marching smartly after their *lechon* entry, were spared.

It is considered a crime in Balayan to stay dry in the middle of the parade.

A street party complete with dancing followed the parade, but the residents of the town's four western barangays continued dousing everyone in sight.

Representatives of shampoo manufacturers, which also sponsored the festival, lathered long-haired girls with their products. Not to be outdone, people on board beer floats doused the townsfolk with beer. TV stations, wire agencies and the local tabloids sent their people to cover the revelry in this town two hours and 30 minutes away by motor vehicle from Makati City.

### McDo

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts had listed the Balayan Church as among the 26 churches nationwide recommended for restoration.

The to-do over the McDonald's outlet on its patio began in October last year when franchise holder Golden Arches Development Corp. started construction.

In December, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources slapped Golden Arches with a cease-and-desist order for lack of an environmental clearance certificate. The firm subsequently secured the certificate, and construction resumed early this year.

But construction was again stopped when the National Historical Institute intervened and recommended a second cease-and-desist order.

Construction and application of finishing touches resumed last Friday, and the restaurant opened yesterday.

According to restaurant manager Laura Vera, McDonald's Balayan has secured all the documents necessary for operations. Odie Jasmin, operations consultant, said the restaurant was scheduled to open yesterday at 6 a.m. "But as early as 5:45 a.m., our first customers—a group of 12—came in," Jasmin said.

In an article published by the INQUIRER early this month, Golden Arches executive vice president Kenneth S. Yang said: "When we look for a location, what we call real estate space, we consider the visibility, easy access, population, demographics, economic activity—whether the place is suitable for business."

"A church is within the center of activity in a town," Yang added. "It is where people congregate, and it is surrounded by residential areas. That's the typical profile of a real estate space. That's why the area near a church is suitable for our kind of business."

# 2 airport policemen return bag containing 'P44M' to ex-senator

ZIGA: Only P30,000 in cash

**By Norman Bordadora**

BOMB-SNIFFING dogs were brought in to check out a black trolley bag apparently abandoned in the arrival area of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 2.

Instead of a bomb, investigators said, they found P44 million in cash, checks, and other valuables, and a phone book that identified the bag's owner as former Sen. Victor Ziga.

The ex-solon had left the bag 10:30 a.m. Saturday upon arrival from Legazpi City aboard a Philippine Airlines Flight. That same afternoon, he thanked two honest airport cops—Corporals Jerry Soriano and Dominic Jimenez—for recovering it.

Soriano and Jimenez had been commended on the spot by the Airport Police Department for their honesty.

In a phone interview, Ziga, a real estate businessman in Bicol, denied that the contents of the bag actually cost P44 million.

"Most of the checks are stale," Ziga told the INQUIRER. "The current ones are just guarantee checks—issued for show by a contractor who wanted to develop one of our properties in the province. The only thing of value inside the bag is P30,000 in cash."

Just the same, Ziga said, "I have thanked the two cops, though I didn't get to meet them."

Soriano and Jimenez said they were on a routine security watch when they noticed the bag beside one of the seats in the arrival area.

Following procedure, they radioed for a K-9 unit from the Naia 2 Police Department.

Chief Insp. Timoteo Cruz, officer-in-charge, said that after the bag was declared safe, the investigating officers opened it and found the cash and checks.

Cruz immediately called Ziga's residence, but, the former solon said, "I could not go back to the airport at once, because my wife and I had a wedding to attend at 2 p.m."

Ziga arranged for his driver to pick up the bag. The driver called from the airport shortly after, asking if he could come over because Soriano and Jimenez were going to be presented to media.

He told Cruz, Ziga said, that it wasn't right to declare a P44 million "find."

The reason he was carrying the stale checks was to return them to the Manila-based developer after their deal fell through, Ziga told INQUIRER.

He and his wife Carmencita had many other pieces of luggage at the time, Ziga said, and they didn't notice they had left one behind.

The Zigas own parcels of land in Tabaco City, Legazpi City, and some parts of Camarines Sur. ***With a report from Roly S. Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

# Teachers march to press payment of P35B in COLAs

**By Donna S. Cueto**

SOME 800 public school teachers in Manila staged a protest rally yesterday to demand the release of P35 billion in unpaid allowances of some 500,000 teachers nationwide since 1990.

The "teachers' march" which coincided with the Araw ng Maynila celebration yesterday also demanded that the Department of Education stop its implementation of the revised basic education curriculum.

Hundreds of teachers gathered at the Liwasang Bonifacio from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m. before marching to Mendiola. The rally in Mendiola lasted until 9:30 a.m.

The teachers belonging to the Manila Public School Teachers' Association (MPSTA) said that the government had not been able to pay the P35 billion in cost of living allowances of the teachers nationwide since 1990.

MPSTA president Benjie G. Valbuena said that the government owed each of the 500,000 public schoolteachers some P70,000, representing unpaid allowances of P500 per month for the last 12 years. These unpaid allowances would now reach P35 billion.

"All of President (Macapagal) Arroyo's promises in her first Sona on education were broken. On her next address, we will show our disgust with her government's promises to the people," Valbuena said yesterday.

The teachers also disclosed that they had not been given their handbooks or operation manuals on the teaching of the revised Basic Education Curriculum a week since the start of classes on June 17.

The handbooks were supposed to guide the teachers in the implementation of the revised curriculum.

Valbuena said that so far, only the new Mathematics books for high school had been distributed to public schools.

"This is unassailable proof that the DepEd is institutionally unprepared to implement the new curriculum and we are blaming Secretary Raul Roco and the Macapagal-Arroyo administration for this failure," Valbuena said.

"We are dramatizing our continued opposition to the 2002 Basic Education Curriculum, the non-payment of our benefits such as the Cost of Living Allowance (Cola), and the gross shortages in the number of teachers, books, desks, classrooms and others," he said.

Valbuena explained that the implementation of the revised curriculum was contributing to the teacher and classroom shortage.

He said that the MPSTA had received reports that science teachers were also being made to teach English, Filipino or mathematics subjects in several public schools.

Not only are the teachers overworked, but also demoralized because of the non-payment of their Colas, said Valbuena.

He is urging Roco to help the teachers in this matter.

He noted that other government agencies such as the University of the Philippines, Rizal Technological University, National Housing Authority, National Food Authority, and Local Water Utilities Administration had already begun paying the Cola of their employees.

# Palace, DFA differ anew on handcuffing of 62 Filipino 'illegals'

**By Dona Z. Pazzibugan**

ONCE more, Malacañang disagreed with the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Contrary to the DFA's position, the Palace did not protest the supposed handcuffing of 62 Filipino illegal immigrants who were expected to arrive last night from the United States.

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. said US immigration authorities are well within bounds of their own laws in handcuffing the deportees.

"I do not think there is a need to seek an apology from the US government as to how they would treat felons under their laws.

"We would also not expect them to impose upon us how we should treat their own nationals while they are under our jurisdiction," Afable said in a press briefing yesterday.

He added "the important thing is they were treated humanely, they were fed and not abused or bodily harmed in any way."

But Philippine Ambassador to the US Albert del Rosario has a different view.

In a letter dated June 19, Del Rosario asked the US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) not to put the deportees "under physical restraints" since they are not dangerous criminals.

"Although these Filipinos may have violated (US) immigration laws, they do not pose a threat to any passenger or to the aircraft. They should be treated in a manner consistent with (the recognition of) every individuals' dignity," Del Rosario said.

DFA spokesperson Victoriano Lecaros said they are only asking for some "little consideration" so the children of the deportees will not see their parents in handcuffs.

But Afable said being handcuffed is "not necessarily inhumane treatment" as long as INS authorities only follow what is in their law.

"If the crime calls for the use of handcuffs under US laws, then that's the prerogative (of the INS)," he said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has contradicted, even overruled, Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. a number of times when it came to US policy.

Ms Macapagal's all-out support for the US' global anti-terrorism campaign did not sit well with Guingona.

Guingona was rumored to have nearly resigned when the President allowed US troops to land in Basilan to help Filipino soldiers go after the Abu Sayyaf.

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## Suicidal peace

**EDITORIAL**

PERHAPS it is a sign of our twisted times, but the recent suicide bombing of an Israeli bus that killed several people and injured scores of others has been met by some commentators as proof that Ariel Sharon's West Bank invasion has failed in what it sought out to achieve: to isolate Yasser Arafat and uproot terrorism. This is a twisted observation because it is feckless and misses the point.

To be sure, in terms of scoring international points, Sharon's campaign was doomed from the very start. It attained the opposite of what it set out to do. Sharon merely prolonged his agony when he defied the demands to withdraw issued by the United Nations and by everyone else. Israel merely shot itself in the foot and denigrated its own case in the court of world opinion.

But Sharon wasn't exactly playing to the international gallery when he dispatched Israeli troops to the West Bank and held Arafat literally on the brink of death. He was playing to his domestic constituency. If Israeli polls were taken as a barometer, then the invasion did its job. Sharon enjoys record-high popularity. He has become Israel's darling.

Apparently, Israelis have felt that international reputation is a price worth paying in order to have peace while riding a bus. But they must realize by now that the peace to be exacted from the West Bank incursion is at best spurious. The invasion did not stop the terrorist suicide bombings. The bombings continue.

If the continuous bombings have taken their toll on Sharon's popularity, nobody knows. But they are taking their toll on Arafat's credibility. So all of these self-congratulatory comments about the invasion failing to stop or curb the bombings are pointless. The world is not anymore concerned with Sharon. It is concerned with Arafat, his credibility and his leadership of the Palestinian people.

It is not enough that Arafat was reduced to a sitting duck while Israeli troops forced their way into the West Bank and into the heart of the Palestine Liberation Organization headquarters, coming just a wall away from where the Palestine leader nervously tried to stand his ground. In the aftermath of the Israeli withdrawal, he has been reduced to an object of ridicule while young Palestinians strap bombs on their bodies, board Israeli buses, and pull the detonator in the name of Allah. As the bombings continue to escalate, Arafat's credibility continue to plunge. He has been so humiliated by his own people that he must wish nowadays that the Israelis had pressed on and killed him. That would have been glory compared with the ignominy he is forced to bear now.

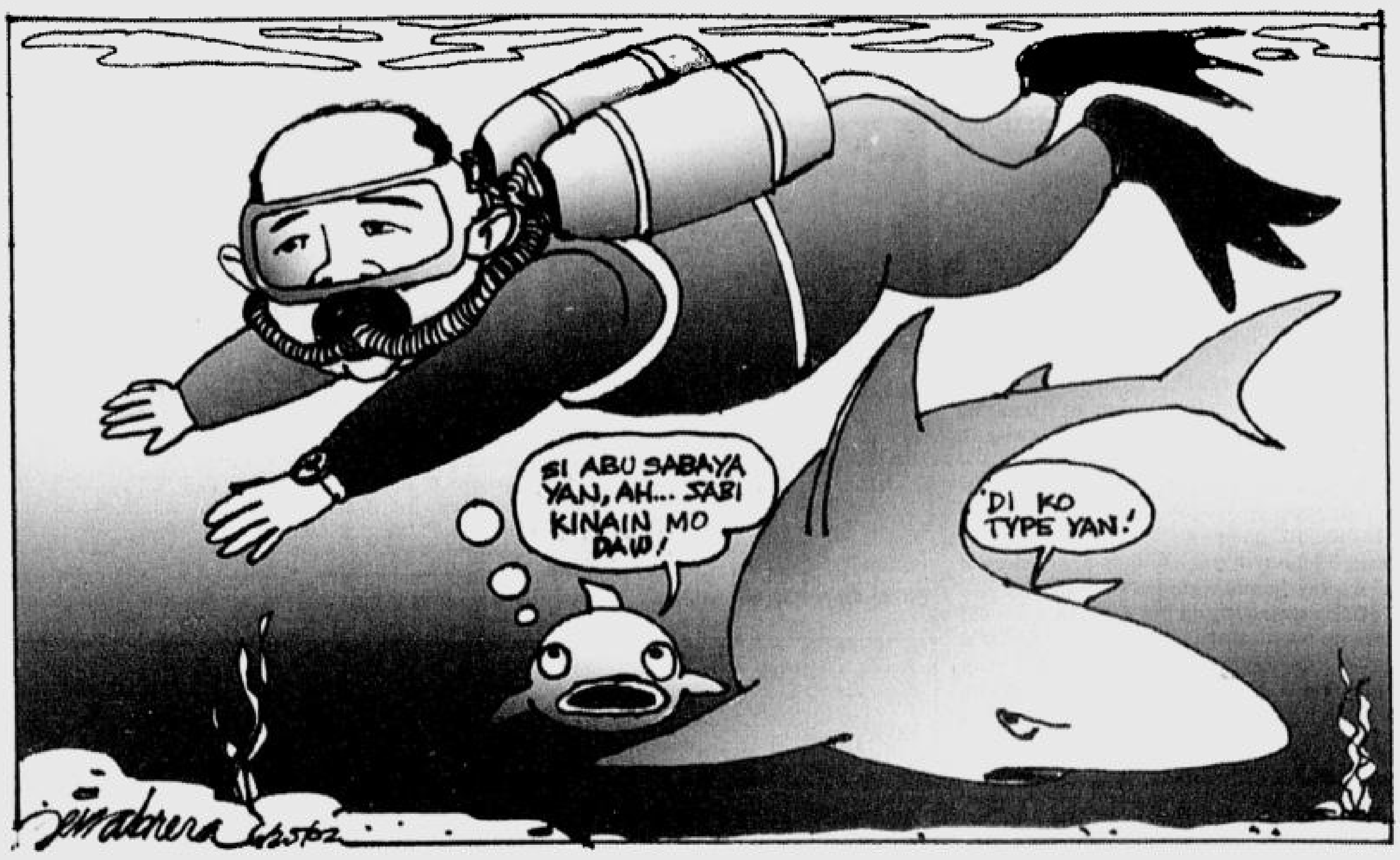
Who can Arafat blame now? Just as Sharon has no one to blame but himself, so does Arafat. The Palestine leader has failed to honor his promise under the Oslo agreement to prevent the territories he controls from being used as a springboard for terrorist and guerrilla attacks against Israel. Never a fan of the Oslo accord, Sharon has failed to offer any credible alternative to Palestinians in order for them to realize their desire by non-violent means.

But both Arafat and Sharon should rightly worry about the former's severely attenuated stature. Not only do the bombings put Arafat's capacity to rule and control in grave doubt. They indicate a sea change in Palestinian attitude toward the Palestinian question and the prospect for peace. They indicate a generational change not only in Palestinian leadership, but also in the modalities with which to approach and settle the question.

The fact that most of the suicide bombers are young show that the younger generation are exerting more and more their voice, weight and sensibility in addressing the question. It is a sensibility that has been engendered by living since birth under a harsh climate of hate and death. To some extent, the demagoguery of Arafat and Palestinian leaders of a similar ilk have fanned the hate. But the spate of suicide bombings and the increasing spiral of violence involving the young should indicate that many of them have fallen in the thrall of extremists.

While the possibility that some of the young suicide bombers were under the influence of drugs when they did their senseless crime cannot be discountered, there is no doubt that they held were sway by the heady drug of extremism.

The clock is ticking and unless Sharon and Arafat go back to the negotiating table, they will find themselves on the same bus making its way toward death.


SI ABU SABAYA YAN, AH... SABI KINAIN MO DAW!
'DI KO TYPE YAN!

## FVR signed IPP contracts despite oversupply

### AS I SEE IT

*Neal H. Cruz*

DO you know that there is an independent power producer (IPP) contracted by the government that is producing less than one percent of its contract, yet we are paying for the full capacity as if its power plants were operating at 100-percent capacity? From 1999 to the present, the capacity utilization of the 98-megawatt combined Iligan I and II Diesel Power Plant has been less than one percent. From 1994 to 1998, it has a capacity utilization of only 11 percent.

It has been estimated that during the 1994-1998 period, the net loss of these plants was P900 million per year as a result of their non-utilization. From 1999 to the present, this net loss has ballooned to P1.5 billion per year. Who are paying for these losses? Who else but we the electricity consumers through the PPA (purchased power adjustment).

In Zamboanga City, the annual loss of the diesel power plant there is estimated at P70 million. This 100-MW capacity power plant was installed in spite of the fact that the total demand of the Zamboanga area is less than 30 percent of that. Furthermore, the plant cannot generate more than 40 MW for distribution elsewhere, because the National Power Corp. cannot transmit the electricity due to "transmission constraints."

In General Santos City, the 50-MW plant has had an average capacity utilization of less than 20 percent since it started operations in 1998. Annual loss is estimated at P400 million.

The combined capacities of these plants in Iligan, Zamboanga and General Santos is 248 MW. But their combined capacity utilization is less than 10 percent. Annual operating loss: P2.6 to P2.7 billion, which we are paying.

These four power plants have a common denominator: they are all owned by the Alsons-Tomen Consortium.

Tomen Corp. of Japan is a leading Japanese trading company marketing various commodities primarily through international trade. It is also involved in the IPP business through its subsidiary, Tomen Power USA. In 1995, Tomen Power Singapore was established to enhance Tomen Corp.'s efforts to develop IPP projects in Asia. Its involvement includes project development, equity investment, full-turnkey construction, financing arranging, plant operation and maintenance.

Alsons Power Holdings Corp. (Alsons) is a subsidiary of Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc., a holding company listed in the Philippine Stock Exchange with investments in various infrastructure and agricultural projects. It is one of the first Filipino companies that ventured into the IPP business in the Philippines through Alsons Power Holdings Corp. Alsons is part of the Alcantara Group, which is a diversified conglomerate headed by its president, Nicasio Alcantara. Former Undersecretary Tom Alcantara, who was in the Department of Trade and Industry when Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was also an undersecretary there, is a member of the Alcantara family.

In fairness to President Macapagal, however, the Alsons-Tomen IPP contracts were signed during the Aquino and Ramos administrations. The 58-MW Iligan I contract was signed by President Corazon Aquino in June 1992, while the three others were signed by President Ramos—Iligan II in November 1992, the Zamboanga project in June 1996 and the General Santos project in October 1996.

All these diesel power plants never operated at full capacity and has steadily lost money since then but paid for by the electricity consumers through the PPA.

* * *

**Interestingly, in 1994, the World Bank submitted a report to the Philippine government which said that there will be an excess power capacity of 3,000 MW by 1999 and recommended that the Napocor postpone the completion dates of contracts already concluded.**

**In its report, "Philippine-Power Sector Study: Structural Framework for the Power Sector," the World Bank estimated the growth rate of the gross domestic product from 1994 to 1998 to average only 5.5 percent. (Actual growth rates were: 1994, 5.5 percent; 1995, 4.8 percent; 1996, 5.5 percent; 1997, 5.2 percent; 1998, 0.5 percent.) Yet the projections of Neda (National Economic Development Administration) was a high 8 percent up to the end of the decade (1999).**

**At the lower WB projected GDP growth of 5.5 percent per year, the total reserve (excess) capacity in Luzon by 1999 was projected at 3,000 MW. The WB then recommended that the Napocor postpone completion dates of projects already covered by effective contracts to avoid an expected oversupply of power, even with slippages in several ongoing contracts at that date.**

**Instead of following the WB recommendations, however, the administration of President Fidel V. Ramos continued to sign new IPP contracts even after 1994. Ramos signed three more in 1995, three more in 1996, three more in 1997 and two more in 1998—or 11 IPP contracts signed from 1995 to 1998, 40 percent of the 28 IPP contracts signed by Ramos during his term. (President Joseph Estrada did not sign any IPP contract during his term, but President Macapagal signed one in 2001, the controversial Impsa contract, although electricity was already flowing out of our ears by then.)**

**The contracts were signed despite findings that as of 1994, there were already enough IPP contracts to supply sufficient power (in fact an excess supply of 3,000 MW by 1999) and despite the fact that the actual GDP growth rates were below the Neda projections.**

**Today, actual excess power capacity is 6,194 MW. There are still six IPP plants in the pre-construction and construction stage. They are scheduled to be operational by 2004, 2005 and 2006.**

## Frantic

### THERE'S THE RUB

*Conrado de Quiros*

THE FRONT pages of several English newspapers said all there was to say about it. They were blank, the space having been reserved for the World Cup. One newspaper proclaimed the sentiments of the whole nation when it further said, "Nothing else matters." An asteroid the size of a football field could have crashed into earth, and it wouldn't have created a stir. Not in England. Not in Brazil.

The event was the quarterfinal match between England and Brazil last Friday. CNN caught the English mood before the match when it visited several English pubs, which were filled to the rafters. It was early morning in England when the match was to take place, and no one was in his office. Everyone was at home or at the local pub, watching television or guzzling beer like there was no tomorrow—or no afternoon or night. Brazil was the favorite, but not an overwhelming one. And England had done so well amid impossible odds that a whole nation dared to hope it would do better.

If that was the state of England, one could only imagine the state of Brazil, the country where soccer was a religion. It wasn't just Brazil's chances of barging into the semifinals that lay in the balance. The fate of the nation did.

I had been wondering how to watch that game live since I woke up last Friday. The INQUIRER Sports page gave me little reason to hope, its listing of sports that day not including any World Cup game. I myself dared hope that our compiler had just missed out on the other cable stations that might be showing the game. The Malaysian channel does so every so often. Alas, there was nothing.

Elsewhere in the world, an iniquity like that would have met with a popular, and violent, revolution. I thought of renouncing my allegiance to SkyCable, notwithstanding that they've restored ESPN and Star Sports. I'm still thinking about it. Furious channel surfing, accompanied by language not fit to print, did little to alleviate my frustration.

By a stroke of luck, a friend of mine, Pancho, was in the same quandary. He called me up asking if I would help him scour Quezon City to look for a place where they were showing the game. Gladly, I said. When I got to their office, it was nearly game time. We drove around frantically like a couple of lost souls, asking restaurants and drinking places if their cable carried the game. Most places looked at us as though we had just escaped from a Mandaluyong hospital. The supervisor of the swimming pool in one hotel said they had Home and Destiny, which might have it. She flicked through the remote, while an aide kept muttering, "*Ano daw?*" Football? His face registered emotions not unlike that of someone trying to grasp philosophical concepts.

Finally, out of despair, or inspiration, we decided to drive all the way to Makati. The pubs there had been advertising the World Cup for days. But disaster took the form of a fierce traffic on the overpass near Kamuning, fiercer than any defense either England or Brazil had ever put up in their games. Undeterred, however, we abandoned our car near the GMA parking lot and climbed the stairs of the MRT station. I briefly thought of asking some friends at GMA if they had the games—surely a network like that would monitor news of such life-and-death magnitude?—but abandoned the idea too. I like writing about the news, I don't like being in the news.

We got off at Buendia and took a cab to the Irish pub in Jupiter called The Craic. It was a lifesaver. It was on the third floor of a house, and you knew where it was because a crowd of people, young and old, men and women, foreigners and Pinoys, milled on the stairs quaffing beer. It was jam-packed inside, and people were testy about their space, growling when someone blocked their view. The English were there full force. Some were wearing shirts printed with the British flag, some were waving pennants of the British flag. All were cheering on and issuing moans and groans at lost opportunities.

Earlier, while aboard the MRT, Pancho had called up a friend of his and learned the score was one-nil in favor of England, Michael Owen having drilled in a goal 23 minutes into the game. He was elated, and thought he'd have some fun at my expense, my sympathies being with Brazil (my apologies to my British friends). When we got to The Craic, however, he was dismayed to find that Brazil had already equalized, courtesy of Rivaldo (and Ronaldinho, who made the brilliant run and pass). It was tug of war from there.

A group of Germans beside us was pro-Brazil and was equally boisterous about their sentiments. A young German kept a running commentary in my ear, suggesting the referees should consult an eye doctor. When one of the referees sent Ronaldinho packing with a red card, he informed me in the most solemn tones that the Bank of England was clearly bankrolling the salaries of the referees. The group erupted into one tumultuous shout when Ronaldinho broke the impasse with a curving penalty kick that barely made it inside. I decided to get even with the Western world and do my own racial profiling. While nursing my San Mig Light (I am not a rich man and these are not *sari-sari* store prices), I eyed the possible exit points in case the British and Germans decided to extend the match there.

Nothing of the sort happened, however. The British delegation was in a hurry to pay its bill afterward, while the television sets beamed contrasting images of euphoria and despair, and postmortem-ed the game.

We went out of the pub, I completely sober but slightly limping from a mild touch of my constant and eternal affliction. But at the end of a frantic day, and with a night full of possibility, I finally caught a glimpse of the meaning of that tortuous philosophical concept:

Happy.

# Engaging China

## POLITICAL TIDBITS

*Belinda Olivares-Cunanan*

THE TROUBLE with being too engrossed with politics is that many crucial issues are ignored by the media despite their importance. Late last month, former President Fidel V. Ramos delivered the inaugural address at the public affairs forum of Polistrat International, an RP-based, Asia-focused strategic communications consulting firm chaired by Jose Leviste Jr., titled "Engaging the Dragon: What's in it for the Philippines?" FVR was referring to our giant neighbor to the north, China. After updating his audience on the political and economic situation there, he spelled out the benefits that can be gained by our country from "engaging" this awakened dragon in a constructive manner. Unfortunately, his well-argued speech did not merit space in the press, unlike the opposition's recent coup in the Senate and Sen. Ramon Revilla's celebrated return.

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**Fortunately, China is a topic that refuses to go away. On July 3, at 2 p.m., the 4th FVR-RPDEV Lecture Series will be held at the RCBC Plaza in Makati on "RP-US-China Relations: Foreign Policy Issues and Economic Implications." Ramos, the RPDEV chair will give the overview and Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona will deliver the keynote address. Reactions will be given by a panel composed of Fr. Joaquin Bernas, Dr. Bernardo Villegas, Sergio Ortiz-Luis, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry president, and Peter Wallace of the Economist Intelligence Unit.**

**FVR's address came after his election in mid-April as chair of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) on the "New Century, New Challenge, A New Asia: Economic Development and Cooperation" in Boao, China. The BFA drew some 1,900 delegates from various Asian governments, business and academic institutions, led by such bigwigs as Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji who acted as the conference host, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. Because of the impact it created, the BFA is being billed as "Asia's Davos," in reference to the annual winter conference of some 3,500 world leaders in Switzerland on various issues.**

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Ramos' thesis is that it is to every advantage of the Philippines and Asean to engage China in an Asean + 1, that could ultimately be Asean + 3 (with China, Japan and South Korea) because of certain political and economic realities today. The China FVR paints is one that after 150 years of "dynastic weakness," during which predatory foreign powers carved up its territories like a melon, now poses security and economic challenges that can be ignored only at Asean's peril. As the world's seventh-largest trading economy, with labor costs the lowest in East Asia outside of Indonesia, China has become the pre-eminent producer of labor-intensive manufacturing goods now flooding the world, including electronics, which constitute the engine of growth of the RP economy. China also attracts nearly four-fifths of all the foreign direct investments coming into East Asia.

FVR opines that the only way for Asean to survive the challenge from China is through regional unity in Asean + 1, which would then become the world's largest free-trade area with access to a potential market of some 1.7 billion people. The alternative is to become marginalized in global competition.

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**In addition, there is the longer-range security challenge as Beijing seeks to advance its imperative strategic objectives: to recover Taiwan and ensure the defense in depth of its coastal heartland by dominating the China Sea. FVR noted that Beijing has laid a sweeping claim to a large part of the South China Sea, which has always been Southeast Asia's own maritime heartland. Proof of this is that the Chinese navy even now squats on Mischief Reef in the Spratlys, which is less than 135 nautical miles west of Palawan—a distance approximating that between Manila and Urdaneta, Pangasinan. But FVR also stressed that the continuing economic slowdown has also made the Taiwanese aware of their need for China's market and labor force, so that while China wants to regain Taiwan, the likelihood of a peaceful reunification remains.**

* * *

A central point that should be factored into any analysis of how to best engage China is Beijing's current preoccupation with political succession and the social and economic tensions impacting on its internal stability and cohesion. FVR noted that in the anticipated major shakeup at the Communist Party Congress this October, President Jiang Zemin is expected to step down as general secretary and from the presidency by March 2003. His successor, Vice President Hu Jingtao, is in his mid-50s. Prime Minister Zhu Rongji and former Premier Li Peng, who is now president of the National People's Congress, are also expected to retire together with 50 to 60 percent of the 200-member Central Committee, the majority of the 22-member Politburo and five of its seven-member standing committee. *(To be continued)*

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**This plug for books is a *pahabol* for the celebration of the Philippine Book Development Month this June, sponsored by the National Book Development Board and the book publishing industry. This annual event was set up by former President Joseph Estrada in 1999 through Presidential Proclamation 120, as a way to generate awareness on the value of books and promote book reading. In this connection, book lovers might be interested to know that the Ateneo University Press, run by my good friend Esther Pacheco, is holding a book sale at its office at Belarmine Hall, Loyola campus, from June 24-29, 2002, to celebrate its 30th anniversary. All titles are being sold at a 30-percent discount. Call Tel. No. 426-5984/6601, ext. 4612/3/6. As Esther puts it, "Read, in order to live."**

# Music and living lakes

## AT LARGE

*Rina Jimenez-David*

WHEN he first released "Aguila," one of his early hits, in the 1980s, Joey Ayala said, there were still about 300 Philippine eagles in the wild. Today, 20 years after the song became an anthem of the local environmental movement, there are just three dozen of these magnificent birds.

"So a song will not save an animal from extinction," he remarked, "and music will not prevent the continued destruction of the environment. People still need to act."

But hope springs even among the cynical, or those burned by experience. So Joey was there Sunday evening, along with Grace Nono, her husband Bob Aves and their band, as well as the group of young musical artists known as the Makiling Ensemble, to put music at the service of the environment. More specifically, they headlined a concert called "Huni ng Gubat (Song of the Forest)" which was the launching activity of the year-long "Save the Watershed" campaign of the Caliraya-Lumot Lake Conservation Society.

Held by the shores of Lake Lumot, the smaller and lesser-known of a pair of lake reservoirs in Laguna, in the Bautista fishing resort, the concert seemed blessed by the spirits of the lake. About an hour before it started, Grace Nono looked out over the bamboo balustrade and exclaimed: "Look, there's a rainbow!" Arching over the calm lake waters was a rainbow indeed, and it was soon followed by a second, fainter one. But by the time the organizers were getting ready to open the concert, the rainbows had faded away, replaced by dark clouds and followed soon after by rain.

What were the lake spirits telling us? Were they weeping because all the good intentions had come too late to save the watershed? I hope not. I prefer to think of the rain as a way of blessing the event, and testing the resolve of everyone expected to get involved in the campaign, especially the townsfolk.

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**CALIRAYA and Lumot (also known as Mahipon) Lakes are "man-made" bodies of water created by the damming of the Caliraya and Lumot rivers early in the last century to provide hydroelectric power to the Luzon grid. The maintenance of these lakes, as well as of the watershed that feeds them, is essential not just for power generation, but also for providing fresh water to southern Metro Manila and environs, as well as for fish-breeding.**

**But this delicate ecosystem, whose protection and management has been placed under the responsibility of the National Power Corp., is currently under threat. Maps tracing the extent of soil erosion around the two lakes show extensive erosion over two decades, traceable to uncontrolled illegal logging. Aside from that, a steady influx of migrants to the towns surrounding the lakes has resulted in increased levels of pollution from household wastes.**

**The Caliraya-Lumot Lake Conservation Society is a non-government and non-profit organization formed by resort and rest house owners in the area. Even as they work to protect the lakes from pollution and other environmental ills, they are also aware of the need to work with the community, to make the residents feel the protection of the environment is their cause, too.**

**Thus, says CLCS president Peter Wallace, among the group's goals is to implement programs or activities to provide alternate sources of livelihood to families who have no other choice but to cut down trees for their survival. Another issue that Wallace is concerned about is the high rate of deaths by drowning in the area, shocked that in communities that have grown beside bodies of water, "practically no one knows how to swim." Thus the society plans to host an annual water sports festival that will include free swimming lessons for residents, as well as ensuring that proper safety procedures are followed and facilities provided by resort owners and the local government.**

* * *

TAKING an active part in educating and informing the communities about the need to preserve if not improve the ecological balance of the two lakes is the CBK Power Plant Company Ltd. CBK stands for Caliraya, Botocan and Kalayaan—power plants whose operations are now administered by a consortium led by Impsa.

Lin Castro, vice president for environment and community relations of the CBK, was in fact part of the planning committee for the "Save the Watershed" campaign, reasoning that the maintenance of the watershed is critical to their own operations.

In fact, the society is a member of a Multipartite Monitoring Team, formed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, tasked to monitor CBK's compliance with the environmental compliance certificate issued by the DENR. Under the law, says Lin, the company is obliged to set aside a certain amount for tree planting for every kilowatt-hour it generates.

* * *

**BEFORE THE "HUNI ng Gubat" concert, staged for the CLCS by the Women's Media Circle, members of the media were treated to lunch at nearby Porta Verde, an intimate resort that stands on manicured grounds on the shores of Lake Lumot.**

**From the verandah of the main villa, one glimpses an infinity pool that seems to pour out onto the equally blue waters of the lake, and a view of calm waters bordered by the deep green of forested grounds by the lake edge. "It just looks green from a distance," remarked Marivi Dizon, who chairs the Lumot sub-committee of the CLCS. "But when you look closer, you'll see so many bald spots."**

**Maybe music alone will not save the Caliraya-Lumot Watershed. But it could, let's hope, work on opening the minds of the people and open their eyes to the fact that their survival is intimately tied to the survival of the watershed and the lakes whose shores they call home.**

# A trip to Lucban (1)

## SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

*Bambi L.Harper*

HAVING recently attended the Pahiyas Festival in Lucban, I was naturally intrigued by what a 19th century traveler, Juan Guerra, had to say about the place in his book, "Viajes por Oriente."

Guerra had nothing but superlatives, stating that "the surroundings…present some of the most beautiful rustic panoramas." He quoted another writer as describing the vegetation as of "indescribable magnificence." But he also had a number of observations that arouses curiosity such as his mention of a painting in the church that was "worth calling attention to because of the terrifying inventive force of its artist. The subject of hell is very traditional and dealt with extensively in native pictorial art, but despite this, the artist has known how to give novelty to the painting. What a hell! All the drawings, pictures and engravings that we have seen representing the death of a sinner—are reduced to nothing compared to this one." Guerra said he was sorry he couldn't get the name of the artist but added that the anonymity added to the painting's merit.

Needless to say, some 130 years later there was no such painting in the church.

The other painting Guerra mentioned is that of a Purisima "that Padre Mena (the Franciscan parish priest in the 1870s) displays in the salon of the convent, rescued from the humid landing of the stairs hidden by dust and the chandeliers for many years." Part of my interest is due to Guerra's further observation that Lucban had many native artists "that only have to see you once to translate the likeness to canvas. From a bad photograph of D. Alfonso XII, a full length portrait was made that now hangs in the tribunal of Mauban."

Concerned citizens of Mauban, who are right now in the midst of a struggle to save their American period town hall from being demolished by the local officials, to build a new one of course, might be enticed to see if this portrait by a local artist could be located. Part of the reason many of us are of the opinion that we have no culture is that our artistic achievements have been denigrated all these years. Hasn't it been hammered into our heads that we produced nothing worth preserving so why not tear down and construct some other edifice that at least will benefit some people financially?

But to continue. Lucban, we are informed, was the first town of Tayabas coming from Laguna, situated on the skirts of Mt. Banahaw, "a colossus dominating an extensive horizon." Even then it was "a town of great antiquity and its name in Tagalog means 'orange,' owing no doubt to the great number of these fruits that grow in its locality." It bordered Tayabas, Majayjay and Mauban, a town that was extremely mountainous and some five hours away over rough roads.

The devastation wrought by two previous catastrophes—a fire on the night of Aug. 18, 1860 that reduced the town to ashes, and the typhoon of Oct. 25, 1873 which demolished most of the buildings—was still visible. The church, convent and tribunal, however, remained standing although they were badly damaged.

According to the chronicles of the Franciscans that Guerra read, the present church and convent (circa 1870) had been built in 1738. The first temple was constructed in 1595 by Fr. Miguel de Talavera and destroyed in 1629. More solid ones were built, but these were gutted by fire and that the parish priest was unable to save anything but "a ciborium and the Purisima." Guerra wondered if this was the same one he admired in the salon of the convent, which made the painting even then an old one.

The convent was situated near the outskirts of the town and presented "in its massive and dark masonry a sad and sombre aspect. The stone structure, where ferns formed a tapestry and which was covered by a slimy moisture formed by the constant and continuous rain, presented an imposing and majestic sight that reminded him of the battlements of ancient castles described in legendary romances.

Whoever crossed at night the ample parapet that extended from the entrance of the convent hastened his steps inexplicably. The church formed a black mass outlined under a sky that was always covered in clouds, an opaque lamplight flickering on a niche in the stonewall illuminating the statue of San Luis Obispo, patron of the town. This together with the monotonous and constant rainfall constituted a fearful scene. At eight in the evening, the church bell rang with a sad echo—perhaps, the writer added unconvincingly, due to a fault line in the bronze—reminding all to remember the departed souls.

The proximity of the high peaks of Banahaw and the neighboring forests made it a rare day when it didn't rain. During the months of December and January especially, the inhabitants slept under blankets and the author observed temperatures dropping to 12 degrees centigrade compared to Manila's 23 to 33 degrees throughout the year.

Before the age of tourism and the Spanish conversion of their convents and palaces into tourist inns, the Lucban Tribunal building provided the traveler with all kinds of help as long as he could pay. Not only was it staffed with a major-domo, but it offered good and clean beds, excellent meals, elegant china, fine crystals and a cook who depended not only on his culinary talents but on the abundant and choice supplies from abroad which were kept in the showcases of the two establishments of the town, one of which was ran by a *mestiza* Sangley.

Now what did they know that we don't?

***(To be continued)***

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NOTE: For information re the leasing of lighthouses please call Rear Adm. Ruben Lista at Tel. No. 527-8481.

# Jobless

## YOUNGBLOOD

*BJ*

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.*—***Ed.***

MY brother told me to always aim higher and dream bigger dreams. I followed his advice and finished a business course last march with honors. Now three months and a dozen job rejections later, I don't think I should even dream of landing a job. I am experiencing hopelessness firsthand.

Staying home depresses me. I wake up, get the papers and read about how poor our country is. I go over the classified, to help perk up my day, and all I see are the same big ads recruiting nurses for work abroad. There are no openings for fresh grads seeking a career in advertising.

In desperation, I settle for blind ads looking for "highly energetic individuals without experience." I find out after a long and hot commute that these companies want just about anyone for networking (or should I say pyramiding?) and direct selling.

What is an idealistic graduate to do? Get over my job-hunting depression and accept any job? I certainly hope not. I still have some pride left and I still want a job that utilizes my brain cells in some way. But in this day and age, it doesn't seem practical to dream big.

Aware that there is a boom in call centers all over the metropolis, I am tempted to take a job with one of them. Those companies pay very well but you are essentially trapped in a dead-end job.

So shall I just wait for that dream job or plunge into that "sea of opportunity" waiting in those white-collar sweatshops? What should guide us as we go job hunting—patience or practicality?

Both can lead to either success or doom, but I choose patience, hoping it is the lesser evil. If I choose practicality, I can end up with a job that drives me insane and which will ultimately send me into a mid-life crisis two decades from now. If I choose patience, I can end up unemployed, with a low self-esteem. The doom part of my choice terrifies me but strangely enough, even this is not enough to paralyze me to inaction. After going through so much analysis, I get this feeling of reassurance every once in a while and my gloomy disposition disappears. I just hope this change of mood is not caused by some hormonal imbalance but that it comes form honest to goodness hope.

It's no that I wish that all my wildest dreams will come true. All I want and need right now is not a job per se but that feeling of relief that hope brings, the kind of calm that sets my heart and mind at rest, reassuring me that my future isn't completely in my own clumsy hands alone but in something beyond myself.

But how can I cultivate the habit of hope, if poverty and suffering are so much in evidence everywhere I go. How can I continue to hope without being indifferent to things around me? This baffles me, yet I must keep my hopes alive because quite frankly, I'm getting sick and tired of feeling sorry for myself. Hope, I believe, is my only ticket out of myself, the only thing that will keep me from driving myself insane. It is this process of letting go of my anxieties that will drive my demons away and allow me to be myself, enjoy life and perhaps dream again.

---

*BJ, 22, is a graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University.*

# No room for bright grads?

*JR*

AT THE AGE of 21, three months after graduating from college, I am experiencing my first major disappointment. Suddenly all the dreams I have worked so hard to achieve are being clouded by the harsh realities of life.

I was a good student, so good in fact that I finished magna cum laude, was picked as an outstanding student in our region, and was chosen as a Jose Rizal model student of the Philippines.

When I was in school, I managed to hurdle every obstacle that came my way. I was determined to win the race of life, especially my own race.

My mother could not afford to pay for my college education, but I won three scholarships, all of which were enough to pay for my tuition, books and miscellaneous fees. I can type well so I was able to earn a little for my daily allowance and personal expenses. I was loaded with tons of activities, but I was happy because I knew a better future waited for me. I expected the world to be kind to people like me.

Then it was graduation day. I thought it would be the end of the race, but I was wrong. The track is wide and long and I have not even covered one-half of it.

Like other fresh graduates, I immediately embarked on looking for a job. And I quickly learned that reality does bite. It bites so hard that it can shred one's hopes, tear up one's dreams and destroy one's optimism.

I have applied for numerous jobs. But all I got were responses like: "We need somebody with experience!" or "Oh, you're too young for the work" or "Miss, you're overqualified" or (the one I hate most) "You're a magna cum laude and you will just settle with us?"

If all companies need employees who are experienced, what will happen to all fresh graduates since no one will give us a chance to even begin our careers?

Most companies need employees who are 21 and above. In my case, I will be 21 on November. Does this mean that I have to be a couch potato until I reach that age?

And if being a good student makes me overqualified, should I then advise my nieces and nephews as well as my future children not to study hard and not to seek scholastic awards because all these would be a disadvantage when they are looking for jobs? If there are organizations, especially in the government, that do not accept honor graduates as a matter of policy, does this imply that mediocrity is much preferred and that some organizations are managed and run by mediocre individuals?

There were companies that didn't reject my application outright. I did receive calls from them, but my problem is, I don't have the money to pay for my fare to Manila so I can be interviewed. It is terribly frustrating to be born well-endowed intellectually and hard working but deprived financially.

As I write this, I have just finished crying over a job opportunity that was lost because I lacked the cash. I shed tears for tonight, but I remain hopeful that tomorrow I will receive a phone call saying I can start working.

Does anybody there want my resume?

---

*JR, 21, finished AB Psychology at a university in the Visayas.*

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# Filipino doctors

**PINOY KASI**

*Michael L. Tan*

SOME of you know, from reading Ambeth Ocampo, that Jose Rizal shouldn't actually be called "Doctor." During the Spanish colonial period, the University of Santo Tomas was the only educational institution offering medical training. If you passed the examinations you got a "licentiate" but to actually become a doctor, you had to go to Spain or Mexico to get additional training, eventually submitting a thesis which allowed you to use the title of doctor.

Rizal did go on to study in Spain but returned without submitting his doctoral thesis. He returned to the Philippines and did practice medicine while doing a hundred other things, including painting, sculpting and, in Dapitan, developing the community's street lights, educational system and water system.

Rizal's "flirtations" with medicine figure prominently in a new book, "History of Philippine Medicine," written by three Filipino physicians: Conrado S. Dayrit, Perla Dizon Santos Ocampo and Eduardo de la Cruz.

The book traces the development of medicine in the Philippines from the pre-colonial period to the present, essentially a listing of names and medical discoveries of breakthroughs. The reading can become tedious at times but there are interesting glimpses in between. I came away even more convinced that medicine is more than dramatic surgery and cures.

What made a difference—the conquest or at least the quelling of diseases—came about through massive social mobilization.

Even during the Spanish colonial period, we already find elements of this mobilization. A newspaper called La Filantrofia published in the early 19th century carried information on medical remedies. News about health were disseminated through town criers.

"History of Philippine Medicine" didn't deal too much with a historic campaign to bring vaccinations to the Philippines, one which started in Spain with young children as live carriers of smallpox. The children were transported from Spain to Mexico and eventually to the Philippines, keeping the smallpox virus alive so it could be used to vaccinate other children. I've wondered at times what happened to the children after the expedition was completed, one which saved many lives.

The public health system under Spain was very rudimentary. When the Americans came, there were only 66 physicians in the entire country (42 in Luzon, 18 in the Visayas and 2 in Mindanao), assisted by 22 midwives and 127 vaccinators. This was for a population of six million.

During the American period, the major public health challenge was cholera. People were understandably suspicious of the Americans, especially with the brutal Philippine-American War fresh in their minds. The public health system was now stronger, with more Filipino physicians and health professionals trained, but much of public health was a matter of persuading people to adopt Western standards of sanitation. The changes came gradually, through the combined efforts of the government's health service as well as the public educational system.

"History of Medicine in the Philippines" reminds us that many of the achievements in public health occurred before the era of antibiotics. Diarrhea was treated first by purging the patient with castor oil to rid the person of toxic substances and then using paregoric, actually a tincture of opium, to stop the purging! There were all kinds of prescriptions for tuberculosis, including intravenous injections of calcium gluconate and pneumothorax, a surgical procedure to deflate the afflicted lungs.

I sometimes think people recovered not because but in spite of those treatments. Tuberculosis, for example, was treated at a sanitarium in Sta. Mesa, which still exists today. Perhaps what was most useful wasn't the medical treatment but the rest and fresh air.

My point is that a physician's healing capabilities depended too on his being able to provide emotional support for the patient and the patient's family, and mobilizing community resources to fight disease. A moving example is found actually in an appendix to "History of Medicine," a compilation of anecdotes from the Japanese occupation.

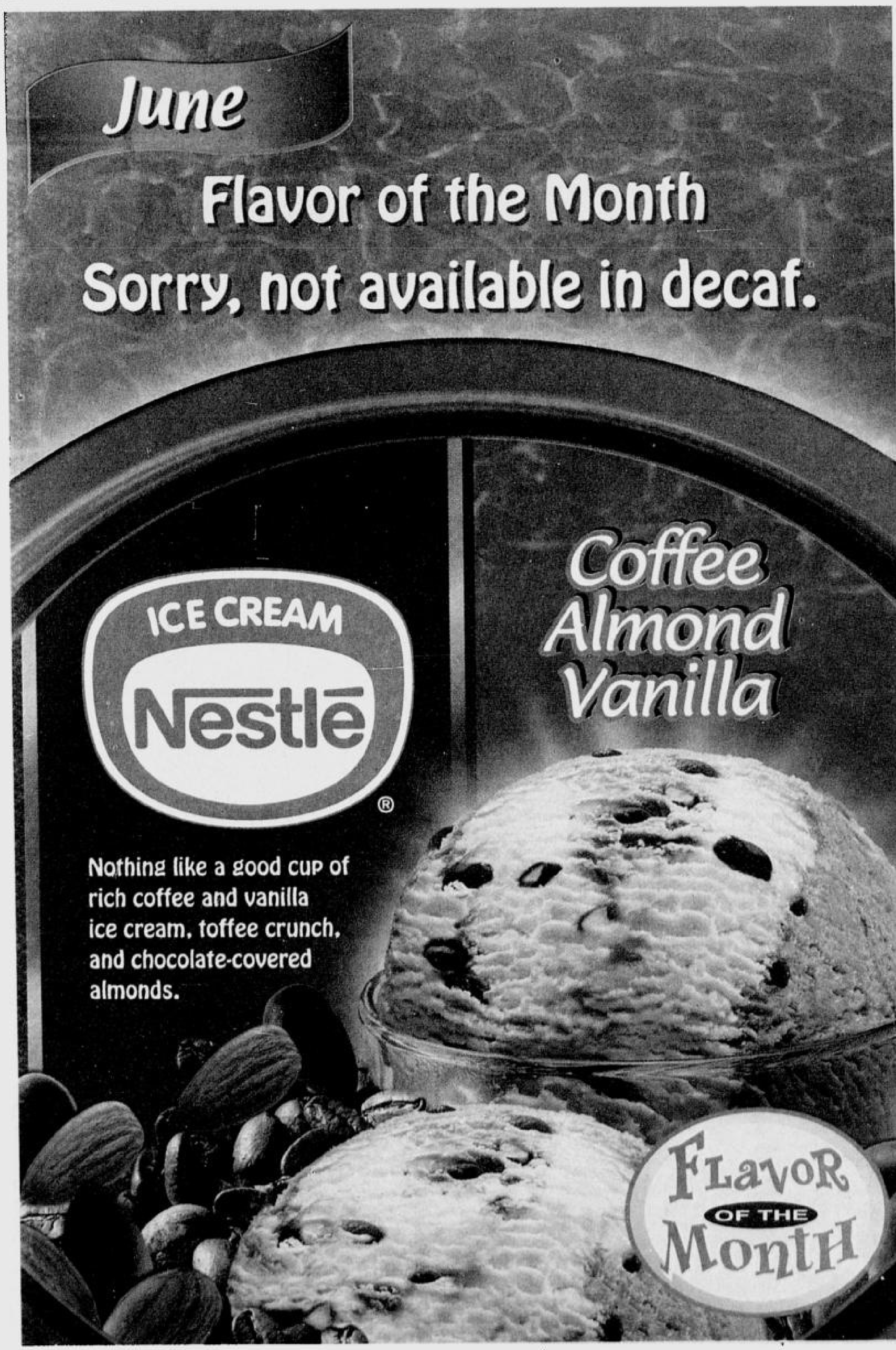
One of the stories referred to a patient, Edith Dizon, who had gone into labor with her first child. She was alone, afraid and apprehensive, worried about what would happen to her husband as he went off to fetch some articles from their home. Suddenly, we are told, the music of a violin "wafted across from the Intern's Dormitory." Dizon was a pianist and recognized the tune: Massenet's "Meditation from Thais." The music calmed her down and she delivered her baby successfully. Many years later, at the age of 78, she went back to school to complete a PhD in Music Therapy from the Michigan State University.

We can see that the practice of medicine involves far more than dispensing medicine, in this case, even the playing of the violin. Seriously though, medicine in the last 50 years has shown how even politics affects people's health. The most dramatic examples come with medicines: we may have the latest drugs in the country but many of the most essential medicines remain unaffordable to many Filipinos. There have been many attempts to bring down the prices of medicines, from the use of generics to parallel imports, but success here remains limited, with too many obstacles posed by the drug industry and physicians themselves.

Rizal may not have obtained his doctorate but in all he did—from the community development programs in Dapitan to his writing of the "Noli Me Tangere" and "El Filibusterismo"—he was practicing medicine as it should be practiced.

* * *

*Comments at miguel@pinoykasi.net*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# Hostage to 'exclusive rights'

LETTERS

I THINK it's rather unfair that local television network operators hold the people hostage with their "exclusive rights" to broadcast special events.

A case in point is the current FIFA World Cup that is being broadcast exclusively by Dream Broadcasting. Outside the United States and the Philippines, the World Cup is the biggest sporting spectacle in this planet. But because there is little disinterest in the sport here, no local television network bought the rights to broadcast the World Cup, except Dream Broadcasting.

The opening ceremonies as well as the first match between Senegal and France were seen live on a seldom-watched SkyCable foreign channel, RTM of Malaysia. But the next day RTM was removed from the SkyCable lineup. SkyCable obviously couldn't afford a lawsuit from the exclusive broadcaster, Dream, and voluntarily blocked off RTM.

Of course, Dream must have paid a lot of money to secure the exclusive right to broadcast the World Cup in the Philippines. But during the elimination round, Dream only had one match scheduled per day. Compare this to RTM, which had at least two matches scheduled per day. This was similar to the situation during the 2000 Olympics. If memory serves me right, PTV-4 sued a local cable operator to force the latter to get off the air the Japanese broadcast of the Olympics. I really didn't mind PTV-4 blocking simultaneous broadcasts of the Olympics as long as its coverage was comprehensive and adequate. Instead, all we got were long-delayed telecasts of events where Filipinos were competing (the tape delay allowing PTV-4 to insert as many commercials as it could). Throw in the poor sound and video quality of its coverage and the result was simply pathetic.

In the case of the World Cup, Dream could have appeared less greedy had it requested SkyCable to block off RTM from showing those games that Dream had scheduled for the day and left the others untouched.

If the people at Dream think that we non-subscribers would be enticed to subscribe because of the World Cup, then they have another think coming. Personally, I'd rather take advantage of Dream's broadcast by watching the World Cup in a bar that subscribes to its service, while nursing two bottles of beer (one per hour of the coverage) at P50 a pop, rather than pay its ransom demand!

**—ALLAN G. KATO, 2644 Molave St., United Hills Village, Parañaque City**

## Public Land distribution exceeded target

THIS week, the Department of Environment and Natural Resource presented to the public the accomplishments of the department, particularly on the distribution of 150,002.34 hectares of public lands, which were part of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's commitment during her State of the Nation Address (Sona) to distribute 100,000 hectares of land to the poor.

Environment Secretary Heherson T. Alvarez said this benefited some 116,548 families nationwide, exceeding the target by 50,000 hectares.

But the articles that came out in most major newspapers the next day maliciously presented the accomplishment as a "bid to keep his (Secretary Alvarez) post."

Allow us to clarify that the distribution of these lands went through a year-long process of evaluation and legal proceedings to ensure that we were not only awarding certificates but clean and good titles, free from any major legal infirmities. It was not rushed in time for his reappointment by the President.

In fact, the DENR already reached the 100,000-hectare mark in early May but pending the arrival and validation of complete reports from the regional offices of the DENR, it was only recently that all the reports were finalized.

We also expect to add 10,000 hectares more to this accomplishment by the second week of July.

The biggest share of certificates was issued in Mindanao, with 45 percent or 68,160.98 hectares, followed by Luzon with 38 percent or 57,626.72 hectares and the Visayas with 17 percent or 24,214.64 hectares.

We assure the public that we will continue to fast-track the processing of these lands and identify more public lands for distribution.

**—EDNA H. TABADORA, head, CARP National Secretariat, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City**

## Chilling fantasies of cultists

AFTER HIBERNATING for many years, cult violence has returned to the scene, claiming the lives of innocent victims in Cebu and Surigao.

Today's cult terrorism, however, is qualitatively different than during the days of Valentin de los Santos, for two reasons. First, terrorism has been taken up by religious groups and cults, which are less concerned about avoiding mass destruction than the traditional political terrorist groups. According to the most common argument, political terrorists operate within the constraints set by the goal of obtaining political support for their cause. Religious or cult terrorists, in contrast, are not looking for political support but instead may harbor Armageddon-like fantasies, and thus know no limits.

Ruben Ecleo Jr. is an example of those inflicted with the so-called "last days malady," even claiming to have supernatural powers to revive the dead, heal the sick and communicate through dreams. And the poor gullible people who believe that the world is on the brink of a conflagration far worse than World War II have accepted him as their "master."

The same is true with another paramilitary group called "Discovery Crusaders" led by Elly Pamatong, which promises to bring back the golden days of the Philippines under American control. These are the type of cultists who are far more dangerous than Ecleo's Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA). Disguised as an anti-communist and pro-US organization, Discovery Crusade of the Philippines Inc. (DCPI), could very well be part and parcel of the al-Qaida network in Southeast Asia. Columnists like Ducky Paredes and Alvin Capino have warned the public about Pamatong's nefarious activities in their regular columns in two other national dailies. The government should put an end to these threats.

**—JOSE SUAPENGCO, 90-A G. Molina St., Parang, Marikina City**

## Checks not encashed by loan association

THIS is in reference to the column of Ramon Tulfo titled, "Checks scam at the AFP Finance Center" published last June 20, 2002. In the column, Tulfo mentioned that checks belonging to dead beneficiaries are encashed at this office.

We would like to clarify that the Composite Wing Savings and Loan Association Inc. (CWSLAI) is a savings and loan association, purely serving its well-defined members and is engaged only in granting loans and accepting deposits from its members since it began operating in 1961. It cannot encash checks. Indeed, the CWSLAI has never encashed pension checks of Armed Forces of the Philippines pensioners.

We are saddened by the unfair and wrong imputation which Tulfo made without prior verification. We suggest that he visit our office to see for himself our operations.

Incidentally, Col. Roseadel Ocbina is not the founder of the CWSLAI.

**—COL. CEFERINO L. HERNANDEZ (ret.), EVP and general manager, Composite Wing Savings and Loan Association Inc., Corner Gozar and Sales Streets, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City**

# Mahathir to stay in power under party deal

**KUALA LUMPUR—Though he remains unshaken in his wish to retire, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has compromised with leaders of his ruling party and agreed to stay in power, officials said Monday. But it was unclear for how long.**

Mahathir dropped a political bombshell on Saturday by tearfully declaring that he intended to step down—without first warning party leaders or giving a timeline for a transition.

Mahathir, who made the announcement in a speech at the close of his United Malays National Organization's annual congress, withdrew the resignation an hour later after shocked party leaders begged him to stay. The 76-year-old leader left for Naples, Italy, on Sunday for a vacation.

"He is going to continue," Trade Minister Rafidah Aziz told reporters on Monday. "No way he will go on with his intention to resign because he has already retracted at our very, very, very strong urging. Rest assured the prime minister will come back as prime minister."

The dramatic flip-flop threw this Southeast Asian country into uncharted waters, with many Malaysians unable to imagine a future without the leader who in 21 years in office oversaw their nation's emergence as one of the richest in the region.

Shares on the benchmark index of the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange fell 1.8 percent by midday, down to 729.66 points.

Details of the compromise have not been divulged, including how long Mahathir will stay on. Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Abdullah Badawi is expected to make a statement Tuesday after meetings of the party's supreme council and the National Front governing coalition.

Before leaving on vacation, Mahathir told party leaders that he was determined to retire because he felt he had served the country long enough and wanted to spend time with his family, UMNO's information chief, Megat Junid Megat Ayub, told the party-controlled Utusan Melayu newspaper.

A source close to officials who attended Sunday's meeting told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity that Mahathir "agreed to some accommodation of our request" to continue to lead the country and party.

The consensus among government politicians was that Mahathir had to manage the transition by gradually relinquishing some of his posts—party leader, chairman of the National Front, and prime minister—but not quit them all at once.

"We need a time frame," Rafidah said. "Even if he wants to step down, don't drop it on us like a bomb. That's not fair to us."

Party loyalists have been urging Mahathir to lead them in elections they hope to call a year early in 2003 to regain ground lost to Islamic fundamentalists in 1999 during a backlash against Mahathir's sacking of his charismatic deputy, Anwar Ibrahim.

Anwar, who had been groomed as Mahathir's successor, lost a power struggle and was subsequently convicted of sodomy and corruption. He is serving prison sentences totaling 15 years and claims he was framed. The government denies it. **AP**

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# Israeli troops, tanks encircle Arafat HQ; Hamas chief held

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Israeli forces surrounded Yasser Arafat's headquarters before dawn Monday for the third time this month, barricading the front gate with debris and fanning out to take control of their sixth key West Bank population center.

Israeli soldiers atop armored personnel carriers flashed V-for-victory signs as dozens of tanks and armored personnel carriers rolled into the city under the cover of two helicopters and took up positions around Arafat's offices. No shots were fired at the compound, where a bulldozer quickly began fortifying barriers at the front gate and then withdrew.

"A large number of tanks and Israeli jeeps are surrounding the president's office from all sides," Arafat aide Nabil Abu Rdeneh told AP from inside the compound shortly before dawn.

The move came as Palestinians issued an order for Hamas spiritual leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin held under house arrest in the Gaza Strip. The move prompted masked supporters of the Islamic militant group, armed with machine guns and hand grenades, to surround Yassin's house as Palestinian police kept their distance.

Hamas has claimed scores of suicide bombings in Israel. On Sunday, the Palestinians arrested dozens of Hamas members, including a local Gaza leader, Muhammed Shuhab. Arafat has been under US and Israeli pressure to crack down on Hamas, and has made some arrests.

The Army confirmed taking up positions at "strategic points in the city" of Ramallah, controlling access to the city, and placing the area under curfew. Explosives were detonated targeting the forces, the army said, slightly injuring one soldier. Otherwise, a nervous calm prevailed, the streets deserted except for Israeli jeep patrols.

Israeli forces began reinvading Palestinian towns when back-to-back suicide bombings Tuesday and Wednesday killed 26 Israelis in Jerusalem. The attacks prompted an Israeli policy shift to gradually retaking land with no plans to leave until all Palestinian terror attacks stop. Some 600,000 Palestinians are confined under curfews, although restrictions were temporarily lifted in Nablus and Qalqiliya so residents could shop and go to school.

"There's no doubt that with the current situation, it's hard to see how we can fight terror effectively without being in the Palestinian areas," Cabinet Secretary Gideon Saar told Israel Radio.

Also Monday, Palestinians said Israeli Apache helicopters fired at two cars traveling in southern Gaza Strip, killing six people and injuring five. Izzedine al Qassam, Hamas' military wing, said four Hamas members were killed, including Yasser Said Razek, a leader.The Israeli Army declined to comment.

The militant group Hamas renewed its threats against Israel and warned Arafat to lift the house arrest order against Yassin.

"We emphasize our right to continue the jihad and resistance and to intensify the martyrdom operations as a reaction to the policy of the occupation and the (Palestinian) authority," the group said in a statement.

Israeli forces carried out arrests before dawn Monday, with the Army saying eight wanted Palestinians were arrested in Hebron, two people were arrested in Siair village, just north of Hebron, and a wanted person was arrested in Jenin and in Beit Sahour, near Bethlehem. Palestinians said many of the 10 Hebron area people arrested were known to be Hamas members. Soldiers pulled back after making the arrests. The Army also said four Palestinians wanted by security forces were arrested in the Askar refugee camp east of Nablus.

In Jenin, Israeli troops carried out house-to-house searches, arresting the head of military intelligence, Mohammed Abu Hanana, and his bodyguard, Palestinian security officials said. Troops also found an explosives lab, along with rockets and two explosives belts ready to be used by suicide attackers. The Army destroyed the lab using a controlled detonation. *AP*

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# G-8 meet focuses on fighting terror, helping Africa

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush and other leaders of the world's most powerful countries are determined to use this year's Group of Eight summit to launch what some are calling a Marshall Plan for Africa: billions of dollars in new aid to the poorest continent.

African assistance is expected to be the primary achievement of the 28th annual economic summit, which gets under way Wednesday at a remote resort in the Canadian Rockies.

Bush and the leaders of the other G-8 countries—Russia, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada—also will spend considerable time at their first summit meeting since Sept. 11 reviewing the fight against international terror.

US allies are coming with plenty of questions about what Bush might have in mind in terms of expanding the war to Iraq and other countries. The president, in a commencement address at the US Military Academy on June 1, said the United States will strike preemptively against suspected terrorists or the states that support them if necessary to deter attacks on Americans.

The remarks raised new misgivings about what many US allies see as a troubling US tendency toward unilateral action.

"In the context of terrorism, the allies will make an effort to get the president to commit to greater consultation. The West Point speech heightened their anxiety," said James Steinberg, deputy national security adviser in Bill Clinton's administration.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said he was not expecting Bush to apply any pressure to get backing from the other leaders for an imminent expansion of the campaign. *AP*

# Rescuers dig out last bodies from Iran earthquake

CHANGOOREH—Mohammad Taheri fainted when sniffer dogs and rescue workers unearthed his mother's body Monday, one of the victims of an earthquake in northwestern Iran that flattened some 100 remote villages and killed 220.

With one more body found rescue workers in Changooreh, among the hardest hit of the villages destroyed by Saturday's magnitude-6 earthquake, said they had dug up at least 140 bodies from the debris by early Monday.

Only one person remained missing in the village and was believed dead, rescue workers said as they continued their search. Dazed villagers sifted through the debris of their homes, every once in a while digging out a kettle, a broken radio or other possession.

"This looks like a scene from a WWII movie," said rescue worker Majid Elahi as he surveyed the destruction from atop a mound of brick and mud that was once a home.

State radio put the toll at an estimated 220 dead and 1,300 injured, saying the latest toll was based on reports by rescue teams on the ground.

As rescue workers searched for bodies, Taheri, 40, followed them. "Mother, where are you. Why are you buried in the dirt," he cried, all the time beating his head and chest in grief.

Workers jumped in to unearth a corpse after sniffer dogs identified a spot and a bulldozer began to dig. It was the body of Khadijeh Esmaili, Taheri's mother.

Rescue workers and villagers sprinkled water on Taheri's face to revive him, after he fainted at the sight of his mother's corpse. *AP*

# Nokor asylum seekers arrive in Seoul

SEOUL—Ending a diplomatic standoff, 26 North Koreans who had sought refuge at the South Korean and Canadian Embassies in Beijing arrived in Seoul on Monday for permanent settlement.

The North Koreans—13 men, 11 women and two children—arrived in two groups by way of Singapore and Bangkok a day after they were allowed to leave China.

Two North Korean teenagers who had sheltered at the Canadian Embassy since June 8 arrived first from Singapore shortly after dawn. South Korean officials said their ages were 16 and 17, but refused to give other personal data.

Most North Koreans are reluctant to identify themselves because of fear of possible retaliation by North Korean authorities against their families in the communist country.

A few hours later, a group of 24 North Koreans, including a woman who was eight months pregnant, flew in from Bangkok, Thailand. They had forced their way into the South Korean Embassy and consular offices in Beijing on 11 occasions over a one-month period in a bid to seek free travel to Seoul.

The second group included a 56-year-old man who was taken into custody by Chinese authorities after being dragged out of the South Korean visa office.

"I'm glad that I can give birth to my child in South Korea where I longed to live," said the pregnant woman, who identified herself only by her surname, Choi.

The North Korean man who was dragged away from the South Korean consular office said Chinese officials treated him well during investigation.

A 15-year-old boy in the group said he watched South Korea defeat Spain in the World Cup soccer quarterfinals Saturday on a television at the South Korean Embassy in Beijing.

"Long live Dae-Han-Min-Guk (Republic of Korea)!" the defectors shouted before boarding a bus that took them to a government safe house for debriefing.

Thousands of North Koreans who fled famine and repression in their isolated homeland live in hiding in China, most in the northeast.

The latest arrivals brought to 512 the total number of North Koreans who have defected to South Korea so far this year, compared to 71 in 1998, 148 in 1999, 312 in 2000 and 583 in 2001.

Scores of North Koreans have sought asylum since March at foreign diplomatic offices in Beijing or the northeastern Chinese city of Shenyang, near the North Korean border. Many have been allowed by China to leave for the South, despite a treaty with North Korea that requires China to return fleeing North Koreans to their country.

The latest defection bids heightened a diplomatic row between China and South Korea. After negotiations, China finally agreed to let them leave the country, apparently mindful of international criticism of its handling of what was seen by many as a humanitarian issue.

China expressed concern about the frequency of North Korean defection bids through foreign diplomatic offices in its territory.

In negotiating the latest defection attempts, South Korea "fully understood and accepted" China's demand that diplomatic offices should not be used to as a channel for illegal immigration, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao was quoted as saying in a report from the official Xinhua News Agency. *AP*

# *FMD prompts killing of thousands of pigs*

SEOUL—Authorities started slaughtering thousands of pigs on Monday after diagnosing three more animals with foot-and-mouth disease in South Korea.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry said final tests proved that three pigs at a farm in Ansung district, 100 km south of Seoul, were infected with the deadly livestock disease.

To preempt its spread, 6,138 pigs are being slaughtered in the area.

The disease was first detected in South Korea early last month in pigs on the outskirts of Ansung, forcing authorities to kill tens of thousands of swine.

South Korea has been trying to allay concerns about the possible spread of the disease during the soccer World Cup. South Korea is co-hosting the tournament with Japan.

Japan has expressed concern that the disease may be transmitted through food or carried on shoes when soccer fans travel between the two countries.

The European Union also alerted World Cup fans not to travel into the Korean countryside and not to bring food products back home.

South Korea's Agriculture Minister Kim Dong-tae last month said it was understandable for Japan to be concerned.

But he said there would be no problem as long as tourists stayed out of the contaminated area in central Korea, where the transportation of livestock has been restricted. No cases have been confirmed in Japan. *AP*

## WORLDBRIEFS

### New HK cabinet

HONG KONG—In Hong Kong's biggest government shake-up since its return to Chinese rule, Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa named a new Cabinet of political appointees and brushed aside criticism he was chipping away at the civil service left behind by the British. The 14 members of the Cabinet will be politically accountable to Tung, replacing a system in which top bureaucrats were responsible for government departments. The chief executive described the new arrangement as the "dawning of a new era for the governance of Hong Kong." But his political opponents say that Tung pushed his plan through too quickly and worry about the concentration of power in his hands. At a news conference introducing the new Cabinet lineup, Tung sought to ease concerns that the change will distance Hong Kong's government from its roots as an evenhanded and honest civil service. *AP*

### More mayors quit

BOGOTA, Colombia—Three mayors in Colombia's coffee growing region have resigned, joining dozens of others who have left office after being threatened by rebels. The mayors of Pensilvania, Samana and Victoria in western Colombia's mountainous Caldas state said they quit because of threats they would be killed if they did not. "We decided the best thing to do was present our resignations, although we know this will generate chaos," said Pennsylvania Mayor Jose Oscar Gonzalez. "But we must save our own lives." The national human rights ombudsman, Eduardo Cifuentes, called on the government to consider suspending some constitutional rights under a "state of domestic commotion"—a milder form of a state of siege. State control across wide swaths of this South American nation is starting to slip amid threats by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC. *AP*

### Rocket explosion

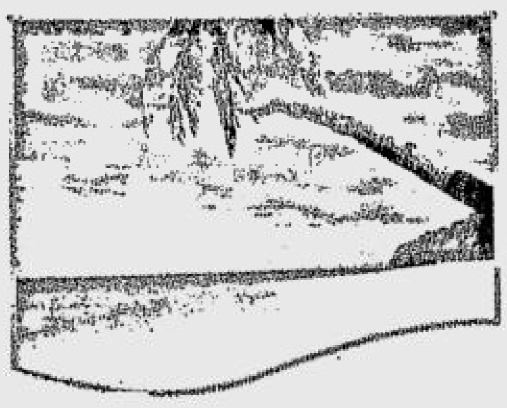
BAGRAM, Afghanistan—A rocket was fired near US special forces troops in southeastern Afghanistan, a spokesman said Monday, soon after British forces in the region seized a large stash of weapons which may have been left by al-Qaida and Taliban fighters. None of the troops was injured in the rocket explosion near the town of Khost. The soldiers searched for the firing site but did not find it, said Col. Roger King. In the nearby village of Organ-e, residents told US troops that rockets might be aimed at the Americans in the area. A US patrol searched the area and found a rocket that had been armed but failed to launch, King said. The troops destroyed the rocket. It was not immediately clear when the rocket had been fired. But it happened after Saturday's discovery by British troops of one of the largest weapons caches yet uncovered in southeastern Afghanistan. *AP*

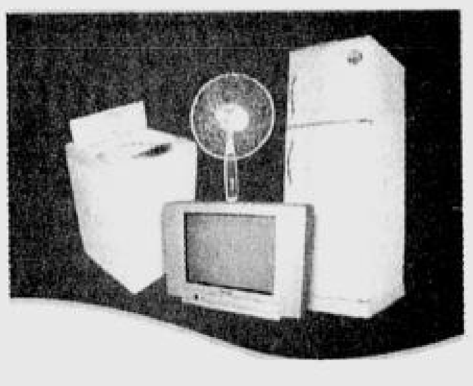
### Arizona wildfires

SHOW LOW, Arizona—Two wildfires raging unchecked through paper-dry forest merged Sunday into a single blaze of about 120,000 hectares (300,000 acres) that threatened to burn into this evacuated town, a fire official said. Before they came together, the fires had destroyed about 185 homes elsewhere in the highlands of eastern Arizona, and as many as 25,000 people had fled more than half a dozen towns, including Show Low. Having a merged fire makes it easier to fight in one respect, said Larry Humphrey, the fire incident commander. "Before we couldn't put people in the middle of this fire. With one perimeter it makes it a little simpler," Humphrey said. On Sunday night, the fire remained outside Show Low, though a few spot fires had been reported on the western part of town, he said. Officials had initially said they expected the fire to enter the town about mid-afternoon. *AP*

### Burma fighting

RANGOON—At least 50 Burmese soldiers and 100 ethnic Shan rebels were killed in two weeks of fighting near the Thai border, as Burmese forces took back four army outposts captured last month by the guerrillas, the government said Monday. The outposts were retaken Friday, and the Shan rebels have retreated to their camps inside Thailand, said Lt. Col. San Pwint, a defense ministry official. In the government's first admission of casualties since the fighting started, San Pwint said that the Army lost 50 soldiers and about 200 were wounded in 31 skirmishes between June 6 and June 21. San Pwint, speaking at a news conference, claimed that 100 rebels of the Shan United Revolutionary Army, or SURA, were believed to have been killed and 200 injured. Troops found 45 rebel bodies and seized several weapons, including 91 hand grenades, and more than 10,000 rounds of ammunition, he said. *AP*





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i. Prizes not claimed after 60 days from receipt of notice will be forfeited in favor of Cebu Pacific, with prior approval from DTI-NCR.
j. Second raffle duration is from April 29 to midnight of July 4, 2002. Winners for the second raffle draw will be drawn on July 11, 2002

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# Across the NATION

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## SAN ROQUE IRRIGATION

# China funds diverted to dam

**By Vincent Cabreza**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

**SAN MANUEL, Pangasinan—President Macapagal directed finance officials to realign loans secured from her state visit to China to bankroll the badly-needed irrigation system of the San Roque multipurpose dam project (SRMDP), a Malacañang official said here on Saturday.**

Renato Diaz, presidential adviser for Northern Luzon, made this announcement within earshot of representatives of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation's (JBIC) loan services department, who attended a dialogue between the dam's stakeholders here and in Benguet.

The government had been wooing JBIC for the release of another $400 million in loans to finance the SRMDP irrigation component.

The bank had released the same amount in tranches between 1998 and 2000 to support the construction of the power facility.

"In the regional meeting we had (on Friday) in La Union, the President . . . (who directed us) to take $20 million—that's P1 billion—initially from the fund we arranged in China last year, and to start the irrigation component as soon as possible," Diaz said.

"We are hoping that we can resolve the issue with Japan so we can fund the balance because we need about $100 million to finance (the irrigation) completely."

The bank has had reservations about the new San Roque loan because of a lobby generated in the last two years by Japanese activists who are sympathetic to the cause of a militant Ibaloi group in Benguet, a Malacañang source said.

The opposition stemmed from the dislocation of thousands of Ibaloi families in the 1950s, when government built the Ambuklao and Binga hydroelectric dams in Benguet.

Reparations were only proposed during the Ramos administration, after the SRMDP was launched.

The government has also been seeking an endorsement for the project from the Benguet provincial board, to abide by a JBIC prerequisite for "local community approval."

Diaz held the dialogue at the SRPC complex here "to help JBIC explore the concerns of the opposition," which has been dominated by Ibaloi militants and the Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA), a Baguio-based non-government organization.

But his announcement was directed at about 50 Pangasinan-based irrigators in the audience, who blamed the Benguet-based Shalupirip Santahnay Indigenous People's Movement and the Itogon Inter-Barangay Alliance (IIBA) for the delay in the government's irrigation schedules.

"If you were victims (of the Ambuklao and Binga dams), we were also victims of mine tailings (coming down from the Benguet mines). We now have 6,000 hectares of irrigated land, but these used to be 12,000 hectares until these were destroyed by siltation from upstream," said Helen Valenzuela, president of the Agno River Federation of Irrigators Associations.

DENNIS SABANGAN

**LEADING THE WAY**
**Prayers are most effective when emanating from the innocents—children—so they say. So when the Navy prays to thank God for the killing of Abu Sayyaf bandits, supposedly including Abu Sabaya, in an operation, the children take the front row.**

**ROSAL**

# Army says it's close to capture of Ka Roger

LUCENA CITY—The military is now zeroing on the hideout of communist chieftain Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, according to the head of the Armed Forces Southern Luzon Command here.

"We're now on the right track," Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko, Solcom commanding general, told reporters during his first press conference here on Friday.

When newsmen asked how close the soldiers were to the hideout, he did not elaborate, but said, "Ka Roger is the subject of all military personnel in the field."

"All I can say is that we will do our best to get him. He's a terrorist (who) has to be arrested," he added.

Kyamko, however, admitted that even if they captured Rosal, the roots of insurgency would not be removed.

But as the Solcom hunts down the Communist Party of the Philippines spokesperson, Kyamko said the military also supports the peace initiative being worked out by local government officials.

When asked if he would also allow Rosal to attend a planned peace forum, Kyamko said, "Ka Roger and his staff would also be given a safe conduct pass should they decide to attend the peace meeting."

"Provided they will carry no guns and the passes that would be issued to them will have a picture of the holder," he said.

Kyamko's predecessor, Maj. Gen Ernesto Carolina, now the Southern Command chief based in Mindanao, had promised that the military would issue safe conduct passes for Rosal and company during the duration of the forum, as one of the CPP spokesperson's conditions to his attendance.

"The military is also for peace. But the kind of peace that our people have longed for—no extortion, no summary killing, no force taxation," he said.

However, he said it was not the military that encouraged the NPA to enter into localized peace talks.

"It is a local government initiative, we only support it," he said.

Kyamko said the military believes that the NPA would not engage in the collection of permit-to-campaign fees during the synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

"The campaign area is too small and limited," he said.

He said although the NPA promised not to support candidates during the elections, the military could not stop the NPAs from supporting any candidate.

"Election is a political exercise, which the military is not supposed to meddle in, except in the preservation of peace and order in the area," he said.

Kyamko said the NPA intimidates barangay candidates to force them to support the guerrillas. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

# 250,000 children in East Visayas malnourished

**By Joey A. Gabieta**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

TACLOBAN CITY—Nearly a quarter of a million of children in Eastern Visayas are malnourished, a staggering figure that the office of the National Nutrition Commission in the region blames on widespread poverty and lack of support from local government units for health and nutrition programs.

Carina Santiago, officer-in-charge of the regional office of the commission, said based on the results of last year's Operation Timbang (OPT), Eastern Visayas has a malnutrition prevalence rate of 36.3 percent, involving 227,442 pre-school children.

While there was no nationwide ranking yet for the 2001 malnutrition rate, Santiago said the figure already indicated that Eastern Visayas would definitely rank high in terms of the number of malnourished children.

In year 2000, the prevalence rate of malnourished children in the region was 39.18 percent, involving 238,426 children.

Santiago said as of last year, there were 227,442 pre-school children in the region that were classified as "moderately to severely malnourished children."

By pre-schooler, it meant these were children within the age bracket of zero to six years old.

"I can say that this figure is quite alarming," she told the Inquirer, referring to the staggering number of children that are considered malnourished.

The NNC defines malnutrition as a "state when the physical function of an individual is impaired to the point when he/she can no longer maintain an adequate level of performance such as physical works, resisting or recovering from an illness and maintaining an adequate level of growth."

Leyte province was found to have the highest number of malnourished children at 82,742 with the province of Biliran having the lowest number of cases at 11,190 children.

Following Leyte was Samar with 36,367 malnourished children; Northern Samar, 34,662; Eastern Samar, 27,035; and Southern Leyte, 17,454.

But Carina said the high number of malnourished children in Leyte was due to the fact that among the region's six provinces, Leyte has the biggest population.

# Soldier, rebels wounded in clash in Negros village

BACOLOD CITY—One soldier and an undetermined number of suspected rebels were wounded in a clash Saturday in Sitio Cumpao, Barangay Sikatuna, Isabela, Negros Occidental, 78.2 kilometers south of here.

Army soldiers belonging to the 11th Infantry Battalion led by Lt. Abraham Gallange were on combat patrol when they chanced upon 15 fully armed men, reports released by the Philippine Army here said.

In the ensuing gun battle that lasted 15 minutes, one soldier, identified as Pfc. Richard Flores, was injured. He was hit in the abdomen and was brought to the Riverside Medical Center in Bacolod City for treatment.

Several rebels were believed wounded based on bloodstains found on the site of the clash.

The rebels were suspected to be the ones involved in last week's burning of four Ceres Liner buses in Hinobaan town, 199.4 km south of Bacolod City.

Col. Alphonsus Crucero, commanding officer of the Philippine Army's 303rd Infantry Brigade based on Negros Island, yesterday said an M-16 Armalite assault rifle with a bandoleer of ammunition and personal belongings were left behind by some of the fleeing wounded rebels.

The 11th Infantry Battalion has yet to confirm the actual number of rebels wounded in the gunfight, he said.

Crucero said the burning of four Ceres Liner buses last Thursday was part of the "terror campaign" of the New People's Army against companies that refuse to pay revolutionary taxes.

About 30 suspected NPA rebel stormed the bus company's garage in Hinobaan town, burned four buses and took a base radio unit and a 12-gauge shotgun as they fled.

The military said the suspected rebels were believed to have been led by Virgilio Paragan, alias Ka Hassan. Paragan, according to the military, was a platoon leader of the breakaway group Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB), before he "defected" to the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army.

Paragan was also tagged as a suspect in the killing of two persons suspected to be military informers in Barangay Canlamay, Ilog, Negros Occidental in March. ***Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

# DAR exec punished for jailing bank head cries foul

SAN MANUEL, Pangasinan—The agrarian reform adjudicator who was suspended for sending to jail Land Bank of the Philippines president Margarito Teves said he ordered the arrest to dramatize a loophole in the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program that allowed many agencies to assess lands being confiscated by the government.

Napoleon Baguilat, Department of Agrarian Reform adjudicator for Central Luzon, told the INQUIRER here on Saturday that he had asked Renato Diaz, presidential adviser for Northern Luzon, to intercede for him in seeking an audience with Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza. Baguilat met with Diaz here.

Braganza suspended Baguilat last week for issuing a ruling that valued 53 hectares of combined rice lands owned by former Court of Appeals Justice Fernando Santiago and Loreto Santos at P72 million, despite protests from Teves.

Teves had insisted on an original land valuation, which pegged the property's value at P171,131.18 based on a valuation policy schedule applied by the Aquino administration.

Baguilat subsequently directed Teves' arrest last month on contempt charges, but Braganza reversed the order as national chair of the Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board (Darab) amid protests from political leaders.

Baguilat said he ordered Teves arrested for ignoring two of his summonses.

"I was making a point here. I was making my judgment using a legitimate (Marcos-era) law. (Teves) was making his own appraisal using another law. There are too many agencies with this authority to assess lands, so I don't think I would be faulted for (alerting authorities to this problem)," he said.

"But I was never allowed to defend myself. I was crucified in the media," he added.

The DAR adjudicators are cloaked with judicial powers.

"If this episode had (implicated) somebody else except Teves, they would not make a fuss. In fact, many people are now in jail for violations, which (the Darab uncovered and penalized). But Teves is a big man, and big people are shielding him," Baguilat said.

He said he needed to present his position before Braganza, to explore necessary reforms in the CARP law.

"I was not even supposed to talk to the media. Diaz advised me to talk to Braganza and Teves," he said. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

# Raids yield arms cache in trader's farm, home

BACOLOD CITY—A prawn farm owner was arrested by police in Toboso, Negros Occidental after high-powered firearms were found at his rest house, prawn farm and residence in simultaneous raids on Saturday.

Arrested and now detained at the Toboso police station was Allan Macasling, owner of a 40-hectare prawn farm and fishpond in Toboso. Macasling will face illegal possession of firearms charges, police said.

Police belonging to Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) placed Macasling under surveillance and raided his properties on Saturday as an offshoot of complaints of alleged indiscriminate firing that took place in his fish and prawn farm, according to Senior Insp. Moises Villaceran Jr., head of the raiding team.

The raids on the prawn farm in Toboso and rest house in Escalante City yielded an Ingram machine pistol with a silencer, two .45 cal. Colt pistols, a .38 cal. revolver, a 12-gauge-shotgun, a .22 cal. pistol, an M-60 machinegun link, 200 rounds of assorted ammunition of different calibers of firearms, 11 magazines of M-16 rifles and various handguns, an Icom VHF radio unit and two holsters.

Most of the firearms were taken from the rest house of Macasling in Barangay Japitan, Escalante City, according to Villaceran.

Another raid on Macasling's house in Barangay Salamanca, Toboso yielded a .45 cal. pistol with 21 rounds of ammunition, a VHF radio, an empty gun magazine and two holsters. ***Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

# BFAR expands ban on seaweed

DAGUPAN CITY—Aside from the seaweed *colet*, shellfish such as clams, oysters and mussels coming from Bolinao, Pangasinan, and its adjacent waters are not safe for consumption, according to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and the National Center for Disease Prevention and Control.

The BFAR and the NCDPC issued the advisory after tests on *colet* (*Acantaphora Spicilfira*) by the marine biotoxin laboratory of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in South Carolina showed the seaweed was positive for marine toxin.

The advisory, issued on May 29, advised the public against gathering, selling and eating shellfish gathered from Bolinao and adjacent waters.

A copy of the advisory was sent to the provincial health office on June 24.

The BFAR and the UP Marine Science Institute sent samples of the seaweed to the laboratory. ***Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

## WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over the Eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao.

SOURCE: PAGASA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Partly Cloudy | HI34° Lo 26° |
| Baguio | Partly Cloudy | HI 26° Lo 17° |
| Tuguegarao | Partly Cloudy | HI 34° Lo 27° |
| Laoag | Partly Cloudy | HI 34° Lo 26° |
| Clark Zone | Partly Cloudy | HI 34° Lo 24° |
| Tagaytay | Partly Cloudy | HI 32° Lo 22° |
| Legazpi | Partly Cloudy | HI 33° Lo 26° |
| Calapan | Partly Cloudy | HI 33° Lo 24° |
| Iloilo/Bacolod | Cloudy with Rains | HI 32° Lo 26° |
| Roxas | Cloudy with Rains | HI 32° Lo 25° |
| Cebu | Cloudy with Rains | HI 32° Lo 25° |
| Tacloban | Cloudy with Rains | HI 34° Lo 25° |
| Gen. Santos | Cloudy with Rains | HI 32° Lo 24° |
| Zamboanga | Cloudy with Rains | HI 32° Lo 26° |
| Cagayan de Oro | Cloudy with Rains | HI 32° Lo 24° |
| Davao | Cloudy with Rains | HI 31° Lo 25° |

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/06/25/02

## ROUNDUP

### Baguio's new come-on

BAGUIO CITY—There are 101 reasons why local tourists visit Baguio City, but Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon said the *wagwag* (used clothes) stalls have become the main tourist attraction of this mountain resort. "*Wagwagan* stores can be a charming tourist destination to our tourists, we can really see that they are being patronized by the people," Gordon told reporters here last week. But Purificacion Molintas, Cordillera director of the Department of Tourism, said the city government has to regulate the proliferation of *wagwag* stalls as these are potential fire hazards.

***Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

### Inmates escape

DIGOS CITY—Five inmates bolted out of the detention center on Luna Street here on Friday. Senior Supt. Samuel Navaja, Davao del Sur police director, said the inmates escaped by sawing off the iron grills of their cell's window. The escapees were identified as Domingo Elispe, 60; Boy Cabigas, 40; Roel Traya, 20; Joel Tauto, 21; and Edwin Buenaflor, 36. At least two guards were suspended after the escape, while their chief, Senior Insp. Simeon Dolojo Jr., was ordered to explain. Navaja said a manhunt has already been launched against the fugitives.

***Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

### 3 hijack suspects nabbed

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—The Task Force Calabarzon last week arrested three suspects minutes after reports that a cargo truck full of canned goods worth P1.8 million was hijacked. The task force also rescued the truck driver, Reinante Lobo, 21, and helper, Richard Seduco, whom the suspects were allegedly intending to dump near the Laguna-Batangas boundary. Police larrested Rodolfo O. Fernandez, alias Ompong, 33, of Quezon City; Levi L. Pacsa, 32, of Paco, Manila; and Louie E. Famador, alias Mike, 28, also of Quezon City. Another helper, Rodolfo Melgar, jumped out of the suspects' car upon reaching Bay, Laguna. Recovered from the suspects were a Toyota Corolla car, a .45 cal. Springfield pistol with seven bullets, two cellular phones, a camera and four wallets with assorted personal papers.

***Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

### RP gets $1.25-M grant

SAN PABLO CITY—The Philippine government will get a $1.25-million grant from the Japanese government to implement the Metro Manila Solid Waste Management Project. In a statement, Lourdes M. Bucay, Department of Environment and Natural Resources regional public affairs chief, said the DENR signed an agreement recently with the Asian Development Bank. Bucay said the grant would finance consultancy services, training and construction of facilities.

***Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

### 'Town of Character'

DAET, Camarines Norte—Mayor Tito S. Sarion wants to make this town known as the "Town of Character" by instilling values among its residents. Sarion said the municipal government would adopt a certain value each month and stress this through lectures and contests among employees and the youth. The mayor said he had initially underscored the value of hard work and productivity as a means for development.

***PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

### Mindoro's 1st bishop

CALAPAN CITY—Most Rev. Buenaventura Famadico has been ordained bishop at the Sto. Nino Cathedral here. The 45-year-old bishop had served as parish priest of the Holy Spirit Parish in Barcenaga, Naujan and the Sto. Niño Cathedral. Famadico finished philosophy and theology at the Divine Word Seminary in Tagaytay City. The episcopal ordination was conferred on him on June 19 by Most Rev. Antonio Franco, apostolic nuncio, who was the principal consecrator.

***Donna S. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

### Rights worker buried

SAN PEDRO, Laguna—A human rights worker who was killed in an accident while on his way to a fact-finding mission in Batangas was buried at the public cemetery here at 3 p.m. on Thursday. Pablito de Luna, 37, of Barangay Nueva, San Pedro was killed while five others were injured when the jeepney they were riding in collided with a trailer truck along the Aguinaldo Highway in Barangay Anabu, Imus, Cavite on June 12, according to the Karapatan-Southern Tagalog. Two of the five survivors were rushed to the Philippine General Hospital in Manila for treatment.

***Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

### Suspected rebs burn bus

DAVAO CITY—Suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels burned a passenger bus owned by LCI Co. in Mati, Davao Oriental on Sunday dawn. The management of LCI, however, refused to make any comment on the incident pending investigation. Reports reaching the regional police command here showed that 10 armed men suspected to be NPA rebels flagged down the bus along the highway in Sitio Tagamot, Barangay Dawan in Mati at around 2:30 a.m. They allegedly ordered the passengers to alight, then set the bus on fire. No one was reported hurt.

***Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

# GMA gifts to Chavit: land, projects

**By Leoncio Balbin Jr.**
*PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BANAYOYO, Ilocos Sur—As a gesture of goodwill to Luis "Chavit" Singson, whom she once again called as the "Hero of Edsa 2," President Macapagal-Arroyo handed out land titles and farm equipment to farmers in this province on Friday, the former governor's 61st birthday.

"This day is the birthday of Chavit. We give birthday gifts not to Chavit but to the people of Ilocos by (giving them) land, equipment, seeds and facilities for clean water and electricity," she told a crowd of 4,000 cheering Ilocanos.

"Happy birthday to the hero of Edsa 2. I became President due to the testimony of Chavit Singson. He had helped a lot and one help was his private negotiation with the Abu Sayyaf," she said.

### Birthday wish

Asked for his birthday wish, Singson said he wanted all the cases that he was involved in to be resolved soon.

"I hope that all the cases that I am involved in will be resolved soon to finally clear all matters," Singson told the INQUIRER.

He was referring to the ongoing trial of his erstwhile friend, ousted President Joseph Estrada, in which he is scheduled to testify, and also to the five graft and plunder charges he is facing before the Ombudsman.

The graft and plunder charges were filed by the Save Ilocos Sur Alliance, a group critical of Singson.

In Vigan City, about 100 members of Sisa led a separate birthday "celebration" for Singson by holding a *lugaw* (porridge) feeding at the Plaza Burgos.

"*Lugaw* symbolizes the poverty of the people of Ilocos Sur that despite the billions of pesos the province is receiving, the only people getting richer are Chavit, his relatives and their cohorts," Sisa president Nestor Segismundo told the INQUIRER.

### Birthday message

Segismundo's birthday message for Singson was "to finally tell the truth, admit his crime, accept due punishment and mend his ways."

Among the officials who joined Ms Macapagal's visit here were Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor, Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos.

Eighty-five tenant-farmers from three Ilocos provinces became landowners when the President personally handed them Certificates of Land Ownership Awards (Cloas).

The Cloas covered 70 hectares of land which were given to farmers under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

The turnover was witnessed by Singson, Gov. Deogracias Savellano and Banayoyo Mayor Jose Sorio Jr.

Braganza said the beneficiaries came from San Juan, Sta. Maria and Santiago towns in Ilocos Sur; Malasiqui, Rosales, Villasis and Tayug towns in Pangasinan; and Caba, La Union to receive their Cloas.

### Beneficiaries

A total of 533 farmers from Ilocos have been given land under the CARP this year.

For the first half, the Department of Agrarian Reform in Ilocos distributed 726 has. representing 88 percent of the department's target for the year, Braganza said.

He said the latest accomplishment brought to 116,585 has. the areas distributed under CARP in the region. Only 2,211 has. remain to be distributed, he said.

"We have accomplished 98 percent of the target as far as land acquisition and distribution is concerned. We can safely say that the land distribution in Ilocos region is almost finished," Braganza said.

He said Ms Macapagal had ordered DAR to double efforts in making sure that the CARP land parcels were productive.

"Our job is not only to distribute land but to ensure that these parcels are productive enough to increase the farmers' income and turn the rural areas into progressive communities," he said.

Braganza said the DAR was making available a number of infrastructure projects and other support services to the farmer-beneficiaries.

The projects include the P17-million road work in Cervantes, Ilocos Sur; the P36-million irrigation project in Bacarra, Ilocos Norte; and the P33-million farm-to-market road in Aguilar, Pangasinan. ***With a report from Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

SINGSON

# AFP chief hero to Ilocos townmates

**By C. Arzadon**
*PDI N. Luzon Bureau*

BANGUI, Ilocos Norte—Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Roy Cimatu, could not have chosen a perfect day to mark his first month in office than to appear before his *kailian* (town mates) for the first time since his assumption to the top military post.

His town mates, on the other hand, made sure their favorite son was accorded the hero's welcome last Thursday as a tribute to the man who made this town "the capital of the Philippines."

Cimatu, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class 1970, is the third general from Ilocos Norte to occupy the top AFP post, next to the late Gen. Fabian Ver of Sarrat town and Gen. Segundo Velasco of Bacarra town.

The reference to this town as the "capital" of the country, Cimatu said, actually spun off from a running joke that he had with his predecessor, Gen. Diomedio Villanueva.

# AN OPEN LETTER

The **ALLIANCE OF VOLUNTEER EDUCATORS (AVE)** wishes to appeal to our Senators and Congressmen to immediately take remedial measures, by way of legislation, on the educators' incongruent salaries with their qualifications, scope of work, and human dignity.

Paragraphs 4 and 5, Section 5, Article XIV, 1987 **Philippine Constitution**, enjoin the State to ascertain and enhance the right of teachers to professional advancement and to assign the highest budgetary priority to education in order that teachers and educators shall receive adequate remuneration and other means of job statisfaction. **AVE**, however, is still very much concerned that these constitutional provisions are yet to be complied.

It is in this light, **AVE** openly appeals to our legislators to at least comply with these constitutionally guaranteed rights of our educators and teachers both from the public and private sectors.

Ironically, students' tuition and other miscellaneous fees are regularly increasing, annually. The teachers' salaries, however, remain stagnant and stunted!

Is this how the State treat the pillars of Philippine Educational System by reneging on the educators' right to an adequate living wage befitting a human person?

**ALLIANCE OF VOLUNTEER EDUCATORS**
**(AVE)**

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# Mikey, Angela wedding

From page A1

forced a smile as he walked to his place down the altar.

The wedding sponsors walked in pairs: Former Presidents Fidel Ramos and Corazon Aquino, publisher Emilio Yap and Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste, Diosdado Macapagal Jr. and Gina de Venecia, Mario Cruel and Norma Chan, and Enrique Aboitiz Jr. and Salvacion Villarasa.

Evangelina Lourdes or Luli, Mikey's only sister and one of two maids of honor, wore an off-shoulder gown, also in celadon.

As members of the bridal entourage took their places, the President and the First Gentleman fixed their gazes on their eldest son, then shifted their attention to the door for Angela's entrance.

Holding the arm of her father, Herman Montenegro, the radiant bride walked toward the altar in her Joe Salazar modern Maria Clara gown, its 5-meter long train flowing behind her.

### Sacred covenant

The Mass was officiated by Pampanga Archbishop Paciano Aniceto, Msgr. Patricio Lim, Fr. Rodolfo de Guzman, Fr. Dennise Antonio Paez and Fr. Manuel Roux.

Aniceto, in his homily, advised the groom and bride to consider their marriage a "covenant relationship" and the family, a "sacred sanctuary of life and love."

He exhorted the couple to "keep your union open, generous and cooperative with God's plan."

The two, the bishop noted, were a natural match, as "Arroyo" meant "oasis in the desert" and "Montenegro" meant "mountain." He then emphasized fidelity and commitment to each other.

Perhaps from excitement, Mikey replied "I do" to the question "Did you come here of your own free will to bind yourself forever in the love and sacrifice of your wife?"

While everybody was receiving communion, Mikey and Angela gazed at each other as Mikey's cousin, Louie Heredia, sang "Somewhere" and "I Will Be Here" to the accompaniment of violinist John Lesaca and the String Minstrels.

The Ateneo de Manila College Glee Club sang additional Mass hymns.

Outside, the crowd quietly monitored the rites, listening through a sound system from the belfry. No wide-screen monitors were installed outside the church, ensuring the privacy of the nuptial rites.

The solemnity was broken only by applause for the couple after Aniceto read the apostolic blessing from Pope John Paul II.

According to a letter signed by Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco, the Holy Father "invoked an abundance of joy and peace" on the bride and groom. He also prayed that their "Christian union would be marked by mutual love and respect" and that it would "meet the challenges of family life."

### Simple décor

Meager church décor done by Toni Parsons reflected the simplicity of the occasion. Sprays of white roses, daisies and chrysanthemums adorned the aisle.

Perhaps the affair's only concession to pomp and pageantry was a red carpet rolled out from the gate of the churchyard to the altar.

The couple gave out *anahaw* and handmade paper fans embroidered with their names as souvenirs.

Although the groom is a movie actor and the Pampanga vice governor, there were no show business personalities and politicians around, except for those who were asked to be sponsors or were there to accompany sponsors. They have been invited instead to a 7 p.m. cocktail reception in Malacañang.

The egg offering made at a Carmelite convent helped as the skies cleared on Monday morning to make possible an al fresco reception that followed the ceremony. Guests partook of *pandesal* with *kesong puti*, *pancit luglog*, *chicharon*, *okoy* and Kapampangan *kakanin* catered by the Plaza and Cabalen restaurants in an air-conditioned tent set up in the courtyard. ***With a report from Donnie Ramirez***

NO rehearsals needed for this full kiss.

FOR a glimpse of, perchance a handshake with, the President and her family, Lubao townsfolk line the street leading to the church.

**ONE FOR THE FAMILY ALBUM.** Bride Angela poses as newest member of the First Family composed of (from left) Luli, Mikey, the President, First Gentleman Mike and Dato.

PHOTOS BY EDWIN BACASMAS AND CHITO VECIÑA

**ROW OF FAME.** Principal sponsors President Corazon Aquino, Sen. Loren Legarda, Gina de Venecia, Norma Chan and Salvacion Villarasa.

HERE comes the bride wearing a mod, shoulder-baring Joe Salazar gown, holding on to dad Herman Montenegro's arm.

# Strictly private, no star-studded affair

From page A1

erstwhile action star, failed to return home from the United States to make it to the wedding. The governor, a close ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, is on a fund-raising campaign in Filipino communities in three US states.

The show biz side of the President's son surfaced when he picked film director Wilfredo Milan and entertainment columnist Aster Amoyo to be readers of the liturgy.

### No public officials

Not one member of the Cabinet was in attendance. Only Renato Diaz, presidential adviser for Northern Luzon, and Edgardo Pamintuan, general manager of the National Housing Authority, were there for the Mass and wedding rite, which lasted for more than an hour.

Pampanga Representatives Oscar Rodriguez and Francis Nepomuceno also came. Doña Nena Puyat-Bondoc pitched in for her son, Pampanga Rep. Juan Pablo Bondoc, who, she said, was suffering from kidney infection.

Aurora Gov. Ramoncita Ong traveled all the way from her remote province and Zambales Gov. Vicente Magsaysay came two hours before the wedding.

Local officials who attended the wedding were not given preferential treatment.

Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda, suspected jueteng lord who is from Lubao and reported to have also supported Ms Macapagal in her past political bids, was conspicuously absent.

His wife Lilia, now Pampanga board member, and his son Dennis, now Lubao mayor, were spotted but kept a low profile.

As if to dispel reports that there was still rancor between her and the President, Cielo Macapagal-Salgado, the President's half-sister, came with her brood.

On her son's wedding day at least, members of the press who would otherwise have hounded the President for statements, maintained their distance.

During the Mass, in fact, members of the media were confined to their seats or to one section where they could take photographs. Reporters and photographers were restricted from entering the reception venue.

Members of the Philippine Information Agency and the Presidential Security Group ordered the media with black tags not to venture into the church and the reception hall. Only those with red ID stickers were allowed entry and coverage. The only reason cited for this was lack of seats.

### Fiesta mood

The groom himself had said in an INQUIRER interview that the Lubao reception was going to be for his constituents. And despite the many restrictions imposed, the barrio fiesta mood remained. In lieu of banquet, the organizers distributed packed meals donated by Mayor Pineda. The lunch consisted of three Spanish-Filipino viands and fruits.

Although she could only enter the churchyard and hear the wedding rites through a loud speaker installed in the belfry, Asuncion Yanga, 82, said she did not mind the trouble.

"I have a heart problem but I walked from my house to be here so I can see Gloria (Ms Macapagal). I am happy for her as I am for her son. May they be like *Cong* Dadong (the President's father and Mikey's grandfather, the late President Diosdado Macapagal) who served the common people," Yanga told the INQUIRER.

She stood near the gazebo in the middle of the churchyard, holding an umbrella under the midday sun, with the rest of the 5,000 people who had gathered to see the President, the newlyweds and their guests.

A WEDDING is as good a time as any to lighten up, even for former Presidents Fidel V. Ramos and Corazon Aquino, both principal sponsors.

**BEAMING MOM.** The President takes time off from public concerns and enjoys her son's wedding.

# US general will bet you Sabaya is dead

From page A1

proof the testimony of Abbas Samson, the barangay chair of Matinbog in Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte, who was arrested last week for allegedly harboring Sabaya and his men. "The barangay captain who is now with us and who is facing charges testified that Sabaya waited in his house for the pumpboat, and he saw Sabaya board the pumpboat last June 21," Carolina said.

Aside from Abbas' testimony, the military is banking on the statements of the four captured bandits and the reports made by the Special Warfare Group specialists and Marines who took part in the encounter.

These "corroborate that Sabaya was in that pumpboat," Carolina said.

### Search operations

In Malacañang, acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable said the government would request the United States to assist in recovering Sabaya's body.

Afable grudgingly admitted that Sabaya, who used to taunt Philippine and US troops in his interviews, continued to mock the authorities even from beyond the grave. "That's the irony of it," he said.

But in Zamboanga City, Wurster outlined the limits of American help in the search. "If we have any intelligence indication that Sabaya had survived, which we do not, then I would, of course, pass that immediately," he said. "In the recovery efforts, our SEALs and your soldiers are working together."

But he said the search would not be on the same scale as that for the US Army Chinook helicopter that crashed in February, killing 10 American soldiers.

"I don't think it's worth it to recover bodies of the criminals that we know are dead," Wurster said in a chance interview.

He said technical support in the form of sharing weather data would continue. "All weather information would be passed to them (the AFP). But we would not be bringing expensive ships to search the sea bottom for casualties," he said.

According to De Leon, the search area is 46 km long and 20 km wide. "This is an intensive search for the peace of mind of our people," he said.

He said the AFP was using a "total approach" in the search of Sabaya and two other bandits presumed to have drowned.

"The method of search is sectoral where we involve the Navy patrol boats, Navy mother ship and riverine boats," De Leon said.

He said the following units were involved in the search: four patrol boats, one ship, one Navy helicopter, two Air Force helicopters, six boats of the Philippine Army, particularly the Riverine Battalion, plus one company of Marines.

Reyes said the Department of National Defense and the AFP had nothing to gain from made-up stories. "The DND-AFP will be the very last to resort to fabricated scenarios that could cloud the very positive results we have achieved so far," he said.

Reyes maintained that based on verbal and visual accounts of the captured Abu Sayyaf bandits and government field units, "the chain of circumstances point to no other conclusion except that the three who fell overboard perished at sea."

"Their chances of survival under the conditions that prevail in the area are deemed minimal even by ordinary folks familiar with those conditions. These facts are easily verifiable," he added.

Sabaya, according to Reyes, sustained two gunshot wounds based on a Navy sniper's account.

"Unfortunately, the three (bandits) ended up in the sea. The search and recovery efforts . . . have not yet yielded their bodies. Although it is now a matter of time before we produce biological evidence of certain death, I am convinced of Abu Sabaya's demise," Reyes said.

"Any doubts to the contrary, while understandable, border on conjecture and merely fuel speculations that undermine the character of our soldiers and weaken their resolve in the ongoing campaign against terrorism," he added.

Former President Fidel Ramos, a former AFP chief of staff and defense secretary, said he believed Sabaya was indeed dead.

"I know the area quite well and it is very deep. There are also predators, like sharks. He could not have survived if he fell into the water," Ramos told reporters at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

The Abu Sayyaf bandit who was captured on June 11—four days after the military encounter that left hostages Martin Burnham and Edibora Yap dead and caused Sabaya and his men to flee—said yesterday that the four men fished out of the waters off Sibuco town were his comrades.

Bashier Ordonez, alias Leuterio Abumikad, confirmed that the four who survived Friday's sea battle were present during the June 7 encounter that led to the rescue of Gracia Burnham.

Ordonez is presently undergoing medical treatment at the Camp Navarro hospital inside Southcom headquarters, after his left foot was amputated because of gangrene. ***With reports from Carlito Pablo, Norman Bordadora, AFP and AP***

# Pirates, not Abus . . .

From page A1

Ferdinand Joel, second officer; and Pieter Lerrech, chief engineer.

The gunmen left behind six other Indonesian crewmen who were later rescued by the Philippine Navy.

Two days later, Joel escaped from his captors and pointed to a photograph of Abu Sayyaf leader Hamsiraji Sali as one of his abductors.

"It turned out he (Joel) was mistaken . . . Sali had similar features as Walub," Servando said.

In Zamboanga City, the chief of the military's Southern Command confirmed that local politicians had opened talks with gunmen for the release of three Indonesian seamen.

Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, Southcom chief, declined to identify the negotiators but said he believed the Indonesians would be freed soon.

"It's just a matter of time," Carolina told reporters. "This won't take long. There were just a few hitches . . . They are not demanding any ransom."

Although the escaped Indonesian hostage told reporters the kidnappers were Abu Sayyaf bandits, Carolina said that questioning of six other Indonesian crewmen whom the gunmen had left behind on the tugboat suggested they were possibly ordinary pirates.

Carolina did not elaborate.

### Lying low

For his part, a spokesperson for the Department of National Defense said the kidnappers were lying low, with no ransom demands or claims of responsibility issued a week after the abductions.

"It's very unusual," DND spokesperson Melchor Rosales said on local television. "There has been no demand for anything or even any claim for responsibility."

Rosales said that while Joel identified police mug shots of Hamsiraji Sali, leader of a Basilan-based Abu Sayyaf unit, the six other crewmen who were not abducted pointed to somebody else.

"It's not yet conclusive, but you have to put weight to Joel's testimony," Rosales said. "Therefore, the (Abu Sayyaf) group is suspect."

But Rosales said he was not ruling out the possibility that other armed groups operating in the Jolo-Basilan region were holding the three Indonesians.

"That (shipping) company was subjected to pirate attacks five years before," he said, without elaborating. ***With reports from AFP and Reuters***

# Illegal drug charge . . .

From page A1

ask the National Bureau of Investigation in Central Visayas to look into who "planted" the sachets among his belongings.

Assistant City Prosecutor Gilbert Moises gave Ecleo five days to submit a counter-affidavit. Moises also said he would resolve the matter within the maximum 15 days allowed by law on inquest proceedings.

The inquest was held at the BBRC on the request of Supt. Lita Quilaton, the jail warden.

Citing the risks involved in transporting Ecleo to the Hall of Justice for the proceeding, Quilaton had asked the city prosecutor's office not to move Ecleo out of the jail.

City Prosecutor Jose Pedrosa immediately granted Quilaton's request. According to Pedrosa, there is legal ground to hold the inquest other than at the prosecutor's office because Ecleo is classified as a "maximum risk" suspect.

Ecleo, a former mayor of San Jose, Surigao del Norte, was brought Friday to Cebu City under tight security, to face parricide charges over the killing in January of his wife Alona Bacolod-Ecleo in Cebu.

The cult leader, a son of Surigao del Norte Rep. Glenda Ecleo, was charged in April with the murder of his wife. But attempts by law enforcers to arrest him had been futile.

He was forced to "surrender" to Surigao del Norte police in the morning of June 19, following a nightlong gun battle between PBMA members and law enforcers in San Jose, Dinagat Island, that left 19 of the cultists and one policeman dead.

### Innocent

Cebu City jail authorities found three sachets of white powder hidden inside the wrapper of a used bar of bath soap among Ecleo's belongings. Tests showed the powder to be shabu.

But Ecleo's lawyer Orlando Salatandre said his client was innocent of the drug charge.

Salatandre also claimed that the shabu was planted, and questioned the failure of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) to submit affidavits to strengthen the case.

The lawyer expressed surprise that no affidavits were taken from CIDG personnel considering that they had custody of Ecleo's belongings starting from the time he left Camp Crame, where he was initially detained, to his arrival at the Mactan-Cebu International Airport, and until he was committed to the BBRC.

Salatandre noted that the complaint merely attached the affidavit of jail guard Aleth Romanillos, who had supposedly discovered the three sachets of shabu.

The lawyer said Romanillos even stated in her affidavit that Ecleo's bag was unlocked when she inspected it. He said the testimony would bolster the defense's belief that police had planted the prohibited drug.

"This is not an isolated case, this is not an ordinary case . . . They (planted the illegal drug) to doubly pin down (Ecleo)," Salatandre said.

He said he would formally ask the NBI to look into the matter, and that he planned to file administrative complaints against the CIDG personnel who escorted Ecleo to Cebu on Friday.

Salatandre also said he would inquire as to how Ecleo's bag was not subjected to X-ray examination at the airport when it arrived in Cebu.

He announced that his client would also file criminal and administrative complaints against the Surigao del Norte police for the June 19 raid at the Ecleo mansion in Dinagat that led to the gun battle.

He said the police should be held liable for entering private property without a search warrant.

### Adjusted

On his fourth day of incarceration, Ecleo, who was wearing a white sleeveless shirt and flesh-colored shorts, told reporters that he had adjusted to his condition.

He demanded a fair and speedy trial of the parricide case against him.

Asked if he had anything to say to the relatives of his slain wife, especially because they would bury today four family members who were killed in Mandaue City on the night of June 18, Ecleo turned teary-eyed and professed love for Alona and her parents, Elpidio and Rosalia Bacolod.

The surviving members of the Bacolod family have accused Ecleo of masterminding the massacre, but the cult leader strongly denied this.

He claimed that Alona's parents were also like parents to him. He said he would have wanted to go to their wake if he were not detained.

AN URGENT APPEAL TO MAYOR ATIENZA AND THE MANILA CITY COUNCIL

**The Federation of Petroleum Dealers and Confederation of Petroleum Haulers of the Philippines request you to reconsider your directive to close the Pandacan depots by June 30, 2002 as it will result in shortage of fuel supply, paralyzing transport and essential industries in Luzon.**

We urge you to consider the following:

1. The Pandacan terminals supply 462 service stations of Caltex, Petron and Shell in Metro Manila and another 674 stations in Rizal and Regions I and II, accounting for 80% of total retail outlets in the area. The terminals are the source of :
   - Gasoline and diesel fuel for private and public transport
   - Aviation fuel used at the Manila International and domestic airports
   - Marine fuel for domestic and international passenger and cargo fishing vessels
   - Fuels for various businesses and industrial plants in Luzon like power plants, garment factories, food manufacturers etc.
   - Lubricants comprising 90% of over-all demand.
2. The closure will force oil companies to source supply from their respective refineries - Batangas for Caltex and Shell, and Bataan for Petron. These facilities are not equipped to handle the volumes that will be displaced even at 24-hour operation due to insufficient loading racks. Moreover, there are not enough tank trucks to haul the displaced volumes to Metro Manila as haulers' trips of 2-3 trips daily are set to be reduced to 1 per day due to the farther distance of supply sources from the demand center. The result:
   - **Shortage of fuel supply to consumers that can lead to rationing of fuel. Distribution of prime commodities will be disrupted.**
   - **Substantially higher freight costs resulting in higher fuel prices for Metro Manila and other parts of Luzon**
   - **Underemployment and loss of jobs for service station personnel with the expected cut back in operating hours**
   - **Increased risks to personal safety of motorists from fully-loaded tank trucks transporting fuel.**
3. Increasing the number of tank trucks will have to contend with high investment costs alongside low profitability and high cost of spare parts and fuel. In the meantime, distribution will just have to depend on the industry's existing fleet of 800 tank trucks which as noted, is insufficient due to longer turn-around time.

These are some of the problems that can be expected should the Pandacan depots be closed by end of June. The closure order will disrupt fuel supply which our country cannot afford at this time. We therefore reiterate to the City Government of Manila to allow the continued operations of the terminal while pursuing talks with the oil companies and the DOE on the long-term plans for Pandacan.

**MERCEDITA S. GARCIA**
President,
Caltex Dealers
Association

**ROSARIO ANTONIO**
President,
Association of Pilipinas
Shell Dealers

**PERLITA VILLAFUERTE**
President,
Petron Dealers
Association

**ROMEO S. RIVERA**
President,
Confederation of Petroleum Haulers of the Philippines

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Luzon 7 3 8 5
(in exact order)
Vis / Min 7 8 2 0

**MEGALOTTO 6/45**
45 39 2 21 29 43

**SUERTRES** 3 4 2

SPORTS
Editor Al S. Mendoza ◎ Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

## Oakland beats Cincinnati, 5-1

CINCINNATI—Eric Chavez hit a two-run homer and the Oakland Athletics completed a three-game sweep in the ballpark where they couldn't win during the 1990 World Series, beating the Cincinnati Reds 5-1 Sunday. The resurgent A's have won seven in a row and 15 of 16, moving a season-high 12 games over .500. They've been the best team in the majors in June, going 18-3. *AP*

# Ateneo joins elite list of PBL champs

## MVP Villanueva keys 60-56 victory over Blu Sun Power

By Dennis U. Eroa

**BRAVEHEART Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation survived Blu Sun Power, 60-56, to add another chapter yesterday to its rich and colorful basketball history by ruling the PBL Chairman's Cup before an ecstatic crowd at the Makati Coliseum.**

Bullstrong Enrico Villanueva powered his way to 24 big points, but it was his and Larry Fonacier's defense against Marlon Legaspi in the dying seconds of the game which proved decisive in cementing Ateneo's place to the elite list of PBL champions.

The victory enabled the Blue Eagles to win the best-of-five championship series, 3-1.

Ateneo won the first two games in nail-biting fashions but Blu kept its hopes alive by escaping with a 46-45 squeaker in Game 3 on Friday.

"I would like to thank God for this victory. It was not easy but the boys wanted it badly," said coach Joel Banal, who is coaching Ateneo for the first time. He also thanked the alumni ``for their unbelievable support."

The game was close all the way as both teams exchanged baskets furiously.

But the Eagles were not to be denied.

Cheered on by a predominantly Atenean crowd, Jec Chia shocked the Blu gallery when he pumped in all of his six points in the fourth period as Ateneo posted a 58-54 lead, 1:29 remaining.

Unfazed, Blu struck back when Aris Dimaunahan buried a jumper, 56-58, and the Detergent Kings appeared ready to post another startling recovery when Villanueva committed a turnover in the ensuing play.

But the 6-foot-5 Villanueva had other things in mind. He blocked Legaspi's shot on the next play.

After an Eagle backcourt violation, it was the turn of the boyish-looking Fonacier to come up with a defensive gem.

Arnold Calo, who almost singlehandedly battled Ateneo's offensive machine for most of the way, made a perfect drop pass to an unguarded Legaspi underneath the basket for what looked like a sure equalizer, 14. 7 seconds remaining.

But Legaspi looked lost and hesitated before stretching for a layup, not knowing that Fonacier was behind to make the rejection.

The roof caved in on Blu as Celino Cruz calmly sank his two charities off the fifth and final foul of Dimaunahan for the final 60-56 count.

As confetti dropped, the Blue Eagles jubilated like kids playing in the rain.

Villanueva was the happiest among the group, shouting on top of his voice while going to the gallery to acknowledge Ateneo's fans.

"I thank Tito Arben (Santos), Mr. Manny Pangilinan and Mr. Cecilio de Pedro and the alumni for their support," said Villanueva, whose overpowering performances earned him regular season and finals MVP honors.

The 6-foot-5 Legaspi was a picture of a beaten man after the encounter. Blu's source of strength in the middle wilted in the face of Rich Alvarez's and Villanueva's tight guarding.

Legaspi had a measly two points and five rebounds and committed four turnovers.

**SCORES:**

**ATENEO 60**—Villanueva 24, Cruz 10, Alvarez 8, Chia 6, Fonacier 6, Gonzales 3, A. Cruz 3, Valdez 0.

**BLU 56**—Calo 21, Dimaunahan 11, De la Cuesta 6, Latoreno 5, Codamon 4, Gatumbato 3, Machica 2, Legaspi 2, Mendez 2.

Quarters: 15-19, 29-32, 44-46, 60-56

**BANAL:** Historic moment for Ateneo's rookie coach. Vindication for Villanueva (inset) as he runs away with MVP honors. ROMY HOMILLADA.

## Ginebra 5 battles winless Purefoods

By June Navarro

**GAME TODAY**
**(Cuneta Astrodome)**
7 p.m.—Ginebra vs Purefoods

| Standings | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| Talk N Text | 2 | 0 |
| Coca-Cola | 2 | 0 |
| Red Bull | 2 | 0 |
| Alaska | 1 | 1 |
| San Miguel | 1 | 1 |
| Selecta-RP | 1 | 1 |
| Ginebra | 1 | 1 |
| Sta. Lucia | 0 | 1 |
| Purefoods | 0 | 1 |
| FedEx | 0 | 2 |
| Shell | 0 | 2 |

EXPECT no compromise when sister teams Barangay Ginebra and Purefoods clash today in the PBA Commissioner's Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The Kings and the Hotdogs, both owned by San Miguel Corporation, take to the floor at 7 p.m. after a weekend of contrasting fates.

Led by Silas Mills and Ben Davis, the Kings thawed the Selecta-RP Team, 85-81, to nail their first victory in the mid-season tournament.

At the expense of the Nationals, the Kings redeemed themselves from an agonizing defeat at the hands of Batang Red Bull, 81-69, two Sundays ago.

The Hotdogs, crowned as Governor's Cup champions in the previous conference, however, weren't as lucky as the Kings.

The Hotdogs squandered what seemed like a won game against the Sta. Lucia Realtors on Friday.

Starring Willie Farley and Stephen Howard, the Realtors erased a huge deficit in the final period and turned back the Hotdogs, 90-75, to strengthen their billing as one of the teams to beat.

"The championship hangover is still there. In time we will be able to get our act together and contend for the championship," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio.

Gregorio, a well respected outside gunner during his prime as a UP Maroon, became the first rookie coach to win a crown decided by a Game 7.

Four-time MVP Alvin Patrimonio, Kerby Raymundo, Rey Evangelista, Roger Yap and Ronnie Magsanoc must blend perfectly with imports Kelvin Price and Gabriel Muoneke for Gregorio to get another shot at the title.

Gregorio's superb coaching style will be ranged against veteran coach Cris Calilan, who is the interm coach of the Kings.

## Amigos trip Gems, bag 2nd straight win

By Roy Luarca

**GAMES TOMORROW**
**(Cebu Coliseum)**
3:30 p.m.—Cagayan vs Davao
6:00 p.m.—Negros vs Cebu

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Slowly but surely, the Casino Cagayan de Oro Amigos are finding their rhythm in the MBA National Conference.

This was evident when the Amigos beat the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems, 100-94, on Sunday night at the Mindanao Polytechnic State Colleges Gym.

The Amigos led by as many as 11 points and then held off the rallying Gems to tally their second straight victory after dropping their first two games in the Southern Conference.

On Friday, the Amigos also bested the Negros Slashers, 110-102.

"We are now beginning to gel as a team and the players are now learning the system," said Amigos coach Victor Ycasiano. "After our second loss, the management and coaching staff gave the team a pep talk, telling them to trust each other and the coaching staff. I am also happy that the team is now learning to play defense."

Amigos team captain Roderick Bughao provided the points and the leadership down the stretch to complement Randy Lopez's inside thrusts and Ernandi Epondulan's snap jumpers that pushed them ahead, 89-78.

Bughao wound up with 20 points while Epondulan added 17 for the Amigos, who have matched their 2-8 slate in the First Conference.

The Gems fell to 1-3 and shared the cellar with arch rivals Negros Slashers. Top scorers for the Gems were Buboy Rodriguez and Egay Echavez with 23 and 18 points, respectively.

Gilbey's Olongapo and LBC Batangas are still playing at presstime yesterday at the San Andres Sports Complex in Malate with the 2-1 Volunteers gunning for the solo lead in the Northern Conference. The game was part of Manila's 431st founding anniversary celebrations.

Meanwhile, Pampanga rookie Vincent John Santos was adjudged the week's Hardcourt Hero after leading the Stars to back-to-back victories in the Northern Conference.

## *Adidas bets from south*

FOOTBALL teams Medvil, M'lang and Drahs scored similar 1-0 victories over their respective rivals to conquer the second Mindanao leg of the 1st adidas Lightning Football competition in Davao City last weekend.

Medvil nipped Davao United, 1-0, to top the Open category. M'lang outlasted Davao Youth, 1-0, to win the Under-19 division. Daniel R. Aguinaldo High School defeated Crossing Bayabas, 1-0, to dominate the Under-15 class.

The Mindanao winners secured a place in the highly anticipated 1st adidas Lightning Football National Finals slated on June 30 at the Ateneo de Manila.

## Korea-Germany today

SEOUL, South Korea—Having come to the brink of the championship match, Guus Hiddink doesn't want the momentum his World Cup squad has built to peter out on home soil.

A win over three-time titlist Germany in today's semifinal would propel the Koreans into Sunday's decider at Yokohama, Japan, and send almost 65,000 fans inside Seoul's World Cup Stadium and millions outside berserk.

The unlikely run to the final four has sparked a wave of patriotism in South Korea, where the number of fans spilling into city streets to watch games on giant TV screens has risen from 1 million for the opener to an expected 7 million for the semis.

Before the tournament, the Koreans couldn't have contemplated a win over Germany in the final four. Not only is it possible now, but it's a distinct possibility.

Unrelenting home support has certainly helped the Koreans advance so far, but they're hoping Tuesday will be their last World Cup match at home.

The winners of the South Korea vs Germany and Brazil vs Turkey semifinals meet in Yokohama. The losers play off for third place at Daegu, South Korea, on the eve of the tournament decider.

Rival carriers, Korean Air and Asiana, are already brawling about which gets to fly the national squad to Japan if it makes the final.

Saturday's quarterfinal win over Spain in a penalty shootout followed a 2-1, come-from-behind upset of Italy in overtime in the second round, group wins over world No. 5 Portugal and Poland and a tie with the United States.

"As we go on, I think we can beat any team ... including Germany," skipper Hong Myung-bo said after taking the winning penalty kick.

Hiddink is the first coach to lead two different nations to the World Cup semifinals. He guided his native Netherlands to the last four in France four years ago.

When the Dutchman took over the South Korean team 18 months ago, it was struggling. In five previous trips to the World Cup, the South Koreans hadn't won a match.

"Now they expect something they didn't believe and many experts didn't believe, either," Hiddink said after practice Sunday. "They had a false respect for European teams–they felt inferior to European teams." *AP*

## 2 pugs going all out vs foes

By Recah Trinidad

SEREMBAN, Malaysia—Cris Camat, tagged to bring in a third RP medal, lost and paid dearly for underestimating his shorter opponent from Kyrgyzstan but two Team Caltex fighters, already assured of bronze medals, went all out for final round berths yesterday in the penultimate day of the 21st Asian Amateur Boxing Championship here.

Light flyweight Lhyven Salazar was to meet a Burmese foe and bantamweight Ferdie Gamo was to clash with an Uzbek in the semifinal round of this prestigious event participated in by 29 nations and ranked high as the Asian Games.

The 23-year-old Salazar, son of a sidewalk vendor from Bacolod, was slightly favored over Kyaw Swar Aung, top bet of the Myanmar team that is being handled by a Cuban coach.

But Gamo, 26, himself said he expected a fierce toe-to-toe encounter against sharp and muscular Khidirov Berzod of Uzbekistan.

Victories for the remaining fighters in the eight-man national squad, funded by Caltex with support from the Philippine Sports Commission, Pacific Heights and Revicon, would give them shots as the gold in today's finals in this quiet, thickly forested town an hour away by land travel from busy Kuala Lumpur.

Light middleweight Camat, 23, who thought he could easily dominate Ryskulov Kymbat, lost miserably, 11-29, and ended with a busted left eye after he was repeatedly beaten to the punch by his shorter but peppery foe.

"I just could not follow up," explained Camat, who has temporarily left a selling job in a California furniture shop to join this tryout for the RP team to the Asian Games.

He said he was feeling superb when he started but later admitted he could have been rendered stale after he drew a bye and was left without a fight in the first half of the tournament.

The Philippines won a lone bronze medal through featherweight Eric Canoy in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad, but Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny Lopez ordered the remaining bets to go all out for the gold after treating the team to a sumptuous Chinese lunch Sunday.

## Sponsors pour in for 1st Gentleman's Cup

SPONSORS have started pouring in their support for the first Gentleman's Cup, a golf tournament in honor of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and for the benefit of out-of-school youth, to be held June 27 at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club's West course.

Overall chair of the organizing committee Col. Tony Cabangon Chua yesterday said the tournament "continued to receive tremendous response.

"The sponsors and golfers are supporting it since they believe it is for a worthy cause," he added. "The list is too long to mention all of them. We would just like to thank them in advance."

Arroyo, whose birthday falls on the tournament date, himself expressed his gratitude over the outpouring of support saying, "I am equally happy to know that from Tony. And I would also like to express my gratitude to the people involved."

Project Oyster is an emergency employment program headed by President Arroyo in coordination with the Philippine National Police.

Wack Wack general manager Salvador P. Malbarosa, the tournament's secretariat chair, said they are expecting 65 teams to take part.

"There will be three players for each team. Team entry fee is P100,000, while individual player entry fee is P50,000," Malbarosa said. "Handsome prizes are at stake."

Aside from Cabangon Chua and Malbarosa, others involved in the event are ways and means committee chair Jack K-C Ng and co-chairmen Jimmy T. Tang and Alfonso G. Sly.

Wack Wack board member Pablo Soon is the tournament chair while Wack Wack golf director Bones Floro is the tournament director. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

KPMG Consulting

**REPEATER**
Phil Mickelson holds up the trophy after winning the Greater Hartford Open yesterday at the TPC at River Highlands in Cromwell, Connecticut. Mickelson finished with a 64=266 to become the first repeat winner of the event. AP

## Jungolf dinner slated tonight

THE JUNIOR Golf Foundation of the Philippines will host an appreciation dinner tonight for its circuit sponsors and host venues at the Richmonde Hotel at the Ortigas Center in Pasig City.

The affair starting at 7 p.m. will be highlighted by the official turnover of tickets to the standouts of the recently concluded Jungolf summer circuit by top officials of Philippine Airlines.

PAL is sending the overall division champions of the circuit to San Diego as part of its support to sports development.

Jungolf is giving plaques of appreciation to circuit sponsors PAL and adidas-Taylor Made together with the National Golf Association of the Philippines, Pisanti, RG Carpentry Shop and the 13 host venues.

"This is a simple affair where we can show our gratitude to all the companies and individuals who have made this year's circuit another big success," said Merwin Mediana, president of the 400 player-strong organization covering the whole country. *J. Arcano*

## *Lunas survives knockdown, prevails*

ROLLY Lunas bucked a first round knockdown to beat challenger Franklin Makalibo by unanimous decision and retain the Philippine flyweight championship at the Tabaco City National High School gym in Tabaco City recently.

Lunas went down for a count of eight after Makalibo hit him with a right uppercut to the chin, but fought back until the bell sounded. The two gamely traded punches in the succeeding rounds, but Lunas got the edge when Makalibo ran out of steam in the later rounds.

Judge Antonio Agus scored the fight 117-110, while international referees Ferdie Estrella and Silvester Abainza had it 117-114 and 115-113, all for the undefeated Lunas.

Jose Consulta won by split decision over Benjie Concepcion in the eight-round main supporting bout. The six-rounders saw Ysmael Reyes win by unanimous decision over Isidro Contreras and Jimboy Rodriguez win by unanimous decision over Ricky Ocoy. *Roy Luarca*

AP

**NO. 1 IN NUERBURGRING**
**Brazilian Rubens Barrichello celebrates after winning the Formula One Grand Prix of Europe at the Nuerburgring circuit in Germany yesterday. Barrichello was No. 1 because Ferrari officials told F1 leader Michael Schumacher not to try overtaking his Brazilian teammate. It was only Barirchello's second career victory. "It was really a great race," said Barrichello, who crossed the finish line two tenths of a second ahead of Schumacher. "I have to thank everyone at Ferrari—the car was really great." Fans at the Nuerburgring cheered with joy as they were spared a repeat of last month's Austrian GP finish, in which Ferrari told Barrichello to let Schumacher pass him in the final stretch.**

# Wind Blown cops Gran Copa

By Edwin Villanueva

**ABSOLUTELY magnificent.**

That's how Australian caller Peter Morrison labelled Wind Blown yesterday after the champion galloper achieved a back-to-back win in the Gran Copa De Manila Stakes Division I race at the jampacked San Lazaro Hippodrome.

Wind Blown finished off his three rivals early, blasting ahead at the first bend then just hummed along to score an eight-length victory in the 1,900-meter contest.

"*Napakagaling. Dominado nya ang mga kalaban*," said star jockey Fernando "Dhunoy" Raquel Jr. on the five-year-old Hazm-Wind in My Hair galloper who was 2001's unanimous choice as Horse of the Year.

The towering champ owned by Plaridel, Bulacan, sportsman-businessman Hermie Esguerra bankrolled P600,000, enough to boost his career earnings to an all-time high of more than P13 million.

"They said that this race was a battle among the best four horses in the land today. I'm glad Wind Blown won it. *Salamat sa lahat ng mga* supporters *niya*," said the 47-year-old Esguerra, who added that Wind Blown might be raced abroad this year.

Morrison, a guest of host Manila Jockey Club each time the Gran Copa de Manila is held, couldn't hide his amazement as Wind Blown bounded the final bend with no opposition in sight, blurting out "here comes your champ, absolutely magnificent."

Batangas Entry wound up second, with Staunch Ally coming in third. Silver Story, last year's Triple Crown champion, was never in the hunt, arriving fourth and last.

"*Magaling si* Batangas Entry *pero mas magaling talaga si* Wind Blown," said Batangas Entry's partner Pat Dilema.

Wind Blown, who clocked a fast 1:59.2, also won his third straight race since coming back from vacation earlier this month. He has now tallied 26 wins (15 of them stakes races) in 36 starts thus far.

Adding color to the 23rd running of the Gran Copa is Sky Hawk, who ruled the Division II race under veteran Joe Noel Camu.

The second-favored Sky Hawk held off a fast-closing Gutmoore to bag P240,000 for former Philracom chief Ochie Santos.

# Underdogs dismiss tennis rivals at Rizal

XAVIER School's Joshua Tan Ho and fellow underdog Ralph Barte of Rizal Memorial College-Davao topped their respective divisions in the Copa de Manila Age Group Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center yesterday.

Ho trounced top seed Gerard Michael Ngo, 7-5, 6-2, in the boys' 12-under finals to capture his third age group title and share the limelight with Barte.

The third seeded Barte subdued top seed Raymond Villarete of La Salle-Greenhills, 6-4, 1-6, 6-4, for the 14-under crown.

La Salle-Greenhills' Irwin De Guzman, also rated No. 3, bagged the 16-under title following a 7-5, 6-0 win over seventh seed Miguel Narvaez.

Palarong Pambansa secondary gold medalist Patrick John Tierro of Olongapo City, however, denied De Guzman the 18-under diadem with a 7-6 (6), 6-3 victory.

Bambi Zoleta of Lucena City and Berry Sepulveda of Cebu won two girls' titles each even as Sarah Jane Lim defeated Paul Nicole Magaway, 6-4, 6-4, for the unisex 10-under title. ***Roy Luarca***

# Sampras grabs honors as Wimbledon opens

WIMBLEDON, England—It's a time-honored Wimbledon tradition as familiar as strawberries and cream, all-white clothing and wet weather.

On the first Monday of the fortnight, the defending men's champion steps out first onto the manicured lawn to play the opening match on Centre Court.

Only this year, the reigning champion–Goran Ivanisevic–isn't back to defend his title. The losing finalist–Pat Rafter–isn't here either.

So who better than to get the Centre Court honor than seven-time champion Pete Sampras? But Sampras sustained a rib strain over the weekend and wasn't sure whether he could play Monday.

Tournament officials turned down Sampras' request to schedule his first-round match against Britain's Martin Lee on Tuesday. But, rather than putting him up first on Monday as expected, they've scheduled him for the third match to give him a few extra hours for rest and treatment.

The Centre Court stage goes instead to Andre Agassi, the 1992 champion and No. 3 seed, who will face 76th-ranked Harel Levy of Israel.

The second match on Centre Court has No. 2-seeded Serena Williams vs 103rd-ranked Evie Dominikovic of Australia.

Another match Monday include No. 3 Jennifer Capriati–a winner at three of the past six majors and semifinalist at the others–playing Janette Husarova in the first match on Court 1. ***AP***

## SPORTSWATCH

### Last 3 Nokia golf slots up

THE LAST three slots to the Nokia Grand Intervillage in November will be disputed today when the final round of the Nokia Intervillage Central tournament tees off at the west course of Wack Wack. Topping the first round of the Nokia Intervillage Central last May 20 at the Manila Golf was Wack Wack, which scored 287 Stableford points in the 12-to-play, 8-to-count tournament sponsored by Nokia, the world leader in mobile communications, and supported by PLDT, Alaxan, ICTSI, Philippine Airlines, National Sports Grill, Mastercard, Mizuno, Pisanti, Planet Wine and More Gallery, Menzi & Co. and 357 Boracay. Running second behind Wack Wack was Magallanes (282), followed by Greenmeadows (269), Urdaneta (265), Forbes Park (257) and Bel-Air (247). Only the top three teams after today's round will make it to the Nokia Grand Intervillage Finals.

### Webb nips faltering Mi by 1 shot

PITTSFORD, New York—Karrie Webb, trailing by three shots with three holes to play, beat faltering Mi Hyun Kim by one stroke Sunday when the young Korean bogeyed the final hole at the LPGA Rochester International. Webb, who birdied the last three holes here in 1999 to beat Cindy McCurdy by a stroke, finished with a 4-under-par 68 and a 12-under 276 total. She won $180,000 to push her career earnings past $8 million. The 25-year-old Kim, who began the day with a five-shot lead, had a 74 and a 277 as she finished second for the second straight week. Se Ri Pak had a closing 67 and finished alone in third at 281. ***AP***

### Opmi Office stages 50 fights tonight

THE OPMI Office Staff will stage 50 fights tonight in a special 4-cock derby at the Mandaluyong Coliseum. Hosts Joel Ngo, Rody Torres and Maricar Gonzaga have invited well-known cockers like Bobby Wong, Opmi president Vic Yu, Pepito Ngo, Georgie Antonio, William Ang, Arnold Mendoza, Renato Shio, Blandy Tolentino, Boy de Roca, "sabong" idol Patrick Antonio, Alex Tang, Nelson Co, Raymond Velayo, Biboy Enriquez, lawyer Ram Lopez, Edwin Aranes, Raffy Campos, Romero Yu, Mauro Prieto, Charlie Reyes, Boy Diaz, Ricky Castillo, Jojo Alcovendaz and Allan Siaco, among others. For inquiries, call 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341. On June 27, the Ucap Handlers 5-Cock Derby will be held, with Ferdinand Gaitan (Sir Vincent), Ferdie Lim (Hammer Jr.) and Bulljack Fortaleza (BL Jojit 128) as hosts.

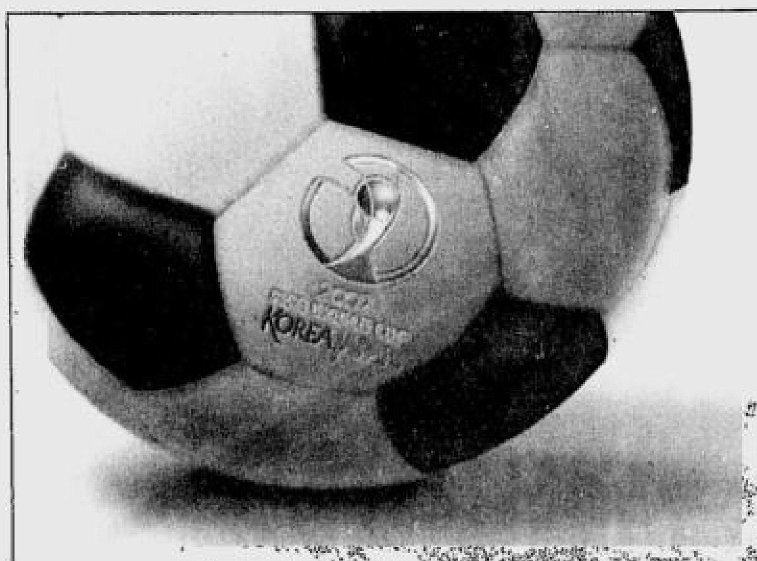
## SPORTS ON TV

**Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat**

**TENNIS:** Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships, Day #1 Highlights at 8 a.m. (r - 11 a.m.), Day 1, First Round at 12 noon (r), Day 2, First Round at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

**MOTOR SPORTS:** International Motorsports News 2002 at 5 p.m. on Star Sports

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.



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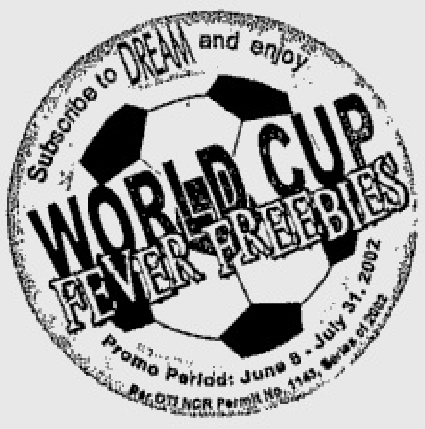
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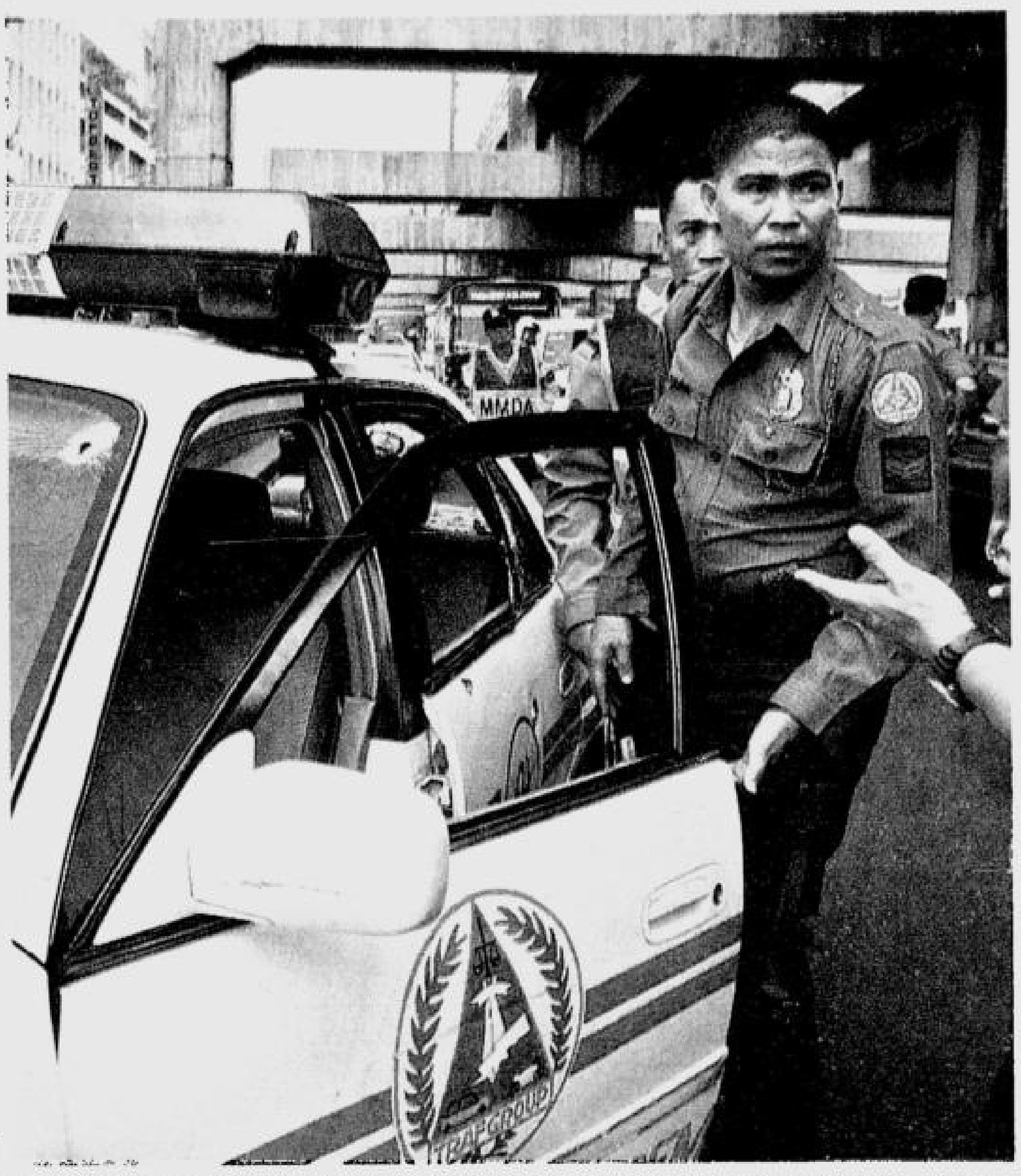
# Cop killed, 12 wounded in Edsa shootout



ANOTHER casualty of the shootout is the mobile patrol car that members of the PNP-TMG used to chase the robbers on Edsa.
ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

**By Nelson Forte Flores and Martin P. Marfil**

**A POLICEMAN was killed and a 7-month-old baby was wounded in a shootout between police and suspected robbers yesterday in Mandaluyong City.**

Eleven other people, including two policemen, were also wounded in the shootout along the southbound lane of Edsa near the corner of Libertad Street, Mandaluyong.

Mandaluyong City police Chief Insp. Plaridel Justo identified the slain policeman as PO1 Dexter Sy of the Philippine National Police Traffic Management Group.

Sy died from a gunshot wound in the head while undergoing surgery at the Victor Potenciano Medical Center (formerly Polymedic General Hospital), said Justo.

The wounded policemen were SPO4 Ramon Solito and PO3 Leon Dacadin, also members of the PNP-TMG, according to Justo. He said both are in stable condition in the same hospital.

Only PO1 Carlos Onan, who was in Solito's group, was unharmed, Justo said.

But stray bullets hit passengers of a South Star bus bound for Quezon, police said. Among the wounded civilians was seven-month old Phil Coronado. They were released from the hospital after being given first aid.

Justo identified the wounded bus passengers as Sevilla Villanueva, 39; Agustin Madrigal Jr., 35; Leopoldo Labastida, 24; Arnulfo Burce, 50; Liza Coronado, 19; Lucena Gomez, Constancio Aquilto, Arnulfo Bulle, Marcelas Cupa, all of Quezon province. They all suffered minor gunshot wounds.

COP /A22

# Government asked to stop Taguig-Rizal road dike

**By Christian V. Esguerra**

A KOREAN fact-finding mission is asking the government to suspend the construction of the controversial P2.9-billion Taguig-Rizal road dike project after it supposedly found out that the dike could not prevent flooding in Taguig and other areas around the lake.

The five-man team, composed of members of the Korean Federation for Environmental Movement and the People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy, also asked the Japanese government "to put on hold the funding of the project until a satisfactory solution" had been arrived at.

The team visited the Laguna Lake between April 29 and May 3.

"The dike project cannot prevent the floods. The solution has to address the environment (and) eco-system problem," said the team's four-page report.

The team also asked the government to conduct further studies on the impact of the road dike project and the environment and to update its 10-year-old environmental impact assessment (EIA) of the flood-control project to include the areas around the Laguna Lake and the Pasig River.

"(The) present EIA is already old and the scope is limited," according to the report. "(A) new EIA should be conducted to find the best way to protect and rehabilitate (the) Laguna Lake."

Thousands of residents in the coastal towns surrounding the lake have been up in arms against the project, saying it would destroy their livelihood and large tracts of farmland.

Funded by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, the 9.8-kilometer road dike is expected to stretch from Taguig to Taytay in Rizal.

The noise created by protesters had prompted President Macapagal-Arroyo to suspend the dike's construction. She also visited the area to consult with residents.

But Ms Macapagal later gave the go-signal for the project after residents had been supposedly convinced that it would solve the perennial flood problem in their area.

But majority of the protesters, led by the Community Organizers Multiversity and other non-governmental organizations, insisted that a thorough review of the project was still important.

To douse fears about the dike, the Korean mission proposed that the government "tap the scientific community to come (up) with scientific proofs that will further deepen (the) understanding (on) the impact of the project on the environment and (the) affected communities."

# Workers protest closure of Pandacan oil depot

**By Philip C. Tubeza**

"WE FINISHED only Grade VI. Where will we go if the depot closes?"

This was what Pilipinas Shell worker Ed Morales said as he and 40 other Pandacan oil depot workers yesterday held a picket against the depot's scheduled closure next month.

"We push oil barrels," Morales said. "We are not graduates of Dela Salle or Ateneo. *Taga*-UP *lang. UPian ng lata.*"

The protestors, many of whom are second generation workers at the depot, held the 20-minute picket in front of the Shell portion of the depot at about 1 p.m. yesterday.

The workers carried placards, which read "No oil depot, no work." "The depot is safe" and "What will happen to us if the depot closes" were on the other placards.

One of the protestors pounded a drum as the others shouted slogans.

Morales said Shell had not given them any assurance that they would still have jobs if the depot closes.

"If the depot is transferred somewhere else, will they still hire us?" Morales said.

He said the workers who live in Pandacan would not have enough money to go to work if the depot were transferred to Cavite.

But the workers have not approached Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, Morales said. He said he was afraid the "mayor was busy."

Morales, 58, who has been with Shell for 39 years, said many of his colleagues are second or third generation workers at the depot, which opened in 1914. His son also works at the depot.

He said that the government should put up a no-fly zone in Pandacan if it is really concerned about security threats to the oil depot.

# St. Luke's, Kidney Center face raps

**By Agnes E. Donato**

TWO hospitals in Quezon City were charged with illegal construction before the city prosecutor's office yesterday.

The city building official filed charges against Enrique Ona, director of the National Kidney Center and Jose Ledesma, head of the St. Luke's Medical Center.

The Kidney Center on East Avenue in Diliman, was accused of failure to secure a building permit for its construction of a three-story hospital building, another

ST. LUKE'S /A22

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**WILD AND WET IN SAN JUAN, HIGH AND DRY IN MANILA**

**As a San Juan resident douses a woman with a can of water to celebrate San Juan Day (left), a woman dancer balances on bamboo poles as she performs a folk piece at the newly renovated Rajah Sulayman Park in Ermita, Manila, to celebrate the city's 431st anniversary.** ERIK ARAZAS

## Manila unveils newly renovated Sulayman plaza

**By Jerome Aning**

RESIDENTS can now enjoy the beauty of Manila Bay from the newly renovated park on Plaza Rajah Sulayman, which opened yesterday highlighting Manila's 431st anniversary celebrations.

Mayor Lito Atienza said the renovation of Plaza Sulayman, in front of Our Lady of Remedies church in Malate, marks the beginning of the city government's efforts to revive Manila Bay.

"Manila is now the only city in the metropolis which has retained its original bay area, and we hope to benefit from this unique feature," Atienza said in his speech.

The mayor also said City Hall intends to focus its redevelopment efforts on the bay area and restore its status as a tourism and recreation park.

The refurbished park in the city's so-called "tourism belt" area in the Malate-Ermita district was named after the last king of Maynilad before the Spaniards conquered the stronghold in 1571.

Over the ashes of Sulayman's fortress-kingdom the city of Manila rose, becoming the capital of Spanish colonial Philippines.

Lanao del Sur sultans Aminoden Dimpuan Guro of the Royal House of Domalondong and Akgami Dagalangid Bansao of the Royal House of Maribu joined Atienza in honoring Sulayman.

# Nayon vendors sue Planas

**By Christian V. Esguerra**

NAYONG Pilipino concessionaires yesterday filed graft charges against Charito Planas, executive director of the theme park, for entering into a "patently illegal" agreement to close the park and drive them away.

In the four-page affidavit, lawyer Oliver Lozano said the memorandum of agreement between Planas and the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa) signed on May 8 was "void from the beginning," because it did not have the approval of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The MOA, he pointed out, covered only the sale of 8.6 hectares of the theme park worth P500 million, not its closure or the eviction of its concessionaires.

Lozano said Nayon cannot be closed until Congress repeals Presidential Decree No. 37, which created the Nayong Pilipino Foundation in 1972.

The decree "prohibits (the) transfer of title of the land covered by (the) said decree without (the) previous authorization by the President of the Philippines," Lozano wrote in the affidavit.

Planas could not be reached for comment at press time.

The graft complaint against Planas came three days after Pasay Judge Henrick Gingoyon issued a temporary restraining order stopping the eviction of concessionaires from Nayon until July 11.

Lozano said the order, in effect, prevented the scheduled closure of the theme park today. The closure would have paved the way for the construction of a parallel taxiway and access road for the new airport Terminal 3.

Miaa general manager Edgar Manda yesterday said airport authorities would proceed with the clearing of the Nayong Pilipino today because he had not yet received a copy of the TRO.

"If we get a copy of the TRO, we will definitely respect it," he said. "We will be patient and law-abiding even if the national interest is at stake here."

## Theft, not robbery, for Ativan gang man

A MAKATI CITY prosecutor yesterday recommended the filing of theft, not robbery, charges against suspected Ativan Gang member Rodrigo Fabricante.

Assistant Prosecutor Delfin Lopez said he wanted to downgrade the robbery charges the Makati City Police filed against Fabricante, because of "lack of aggravating circumstances."

Lopez said a review prosecutor will have to go over the six counts of robbery the Makati Police filed against Fabricante before it can be passed on to the head of the City Prosecutor's Office for final approval.

If charged with theft, Fabricante may post bail amounting from P12,000 to P40,000, according to the city prosecutor's office.

Fabricante has been accused of stealing from Masaki Shibata and Shuhei Uichida of Japan, Carolus Julius Kuntze and Jonathan Anderson of the United States, Michel Hennequin of France, and Peter H. Wayne of New Zealand, police said.

Fabricante's accomplice, Arturo Herrera, remains at large, police said.

Four foreigners positively identified Fabricante as the man who drugged and robbed them, police said. One of the victims, Uichida, even recovered his expensive watch from the suspect.

*Leila Salaverria*

## Makati court clears Korina's maid

**By Leila Salaverria**

THE MAKATI City Prosecutor's Office cleared the former maid of Korina Sanchez of qualified theft charges the ABS-CBN broadcaster had filed against her last December.

"The evidence presented in support of the complaint for qualified theft is insufficient to establish probable cause against (Bernardita) Inocencio," said the resolution signed by Prosecutors Albert Kalalo and Leonardo Guiyab.

Sanchez accused Inocencio of stealing her gold bracelet with diamonds. She said that Inocencio had been the only one left inside the car when the bracelet was lost.

But the prosecutors said it was unlikely that Inocencio took the bracelet because she had been specifically instructed to safeguard it. Taking the bracelet would then immediately make her the primary suspect, they added.

"It was very contrary to ordinary human nature and behavior," the prosecutors said in their resolution.

They also took into account that the bracelet was not found on Inocencio, saying that she did not have sufficient time to dispose of it.

Inocencio accused Sanchez and her supposed boyfriend Pol Aquino of beating her up after she told them that she wanted to leave Sanchez's employ.

## St. Luke's ...

From page A21

two-story hospital building, a warehouse and a one-story dormitory.

St. Luke's Hospital on E. Rodriguez Sr. Boulevard was also charged for its failure to obtain a permit for the additional sixth floor of its Annex 1 building.

The city building official reportedly sent notices to both hospitals after it discovered the violations during separate inspections. But the hospitals still failed to secure the necessary permits.

The National Building Code states that no building should be used or occupied until the building official has issued a certification of occupancy.

## Cop killed, 12 wounded in Edsa . . .

From page A21

Sy and the other policemen were at the corner of Edsa and Shaw Boulevard when they received a report that armed men in a white Toyota Corolla Altis had robbed Juan Malong, a messenger of the Sta. Lucia Realty Corporation some P5.1 million in cash and checks, police said.

TMG Deputy Director for Operations Senior Supt. Errol Pan said Sy and his companions chased the Altis, which turned out to be stolen.

Pan said the TMG patrol car overtook the Altis, but its passengers opened fire at the policemen.

The suspects then abandoned the Altis and commandeered a passing gray Kia Besta (WFU 459) owned by Anthony Yatco, Pan said. They then sped off toward the south, he added.

Justo said that Malong was walking to a bank along Ortigas Avenue to deposit P5.1-million in cash and checks near the Edsa Shrine when five men armed with an Armalite blocked his path.

Malong told police that the robbers forcibly took the money from him and fled in a white Toyota Corolla.

In an interview after the shootout, Solito said he and his men were in their patrol car when they became suspicious of the passengers of the Toyota Corolla as it drove past them along Edsa. He said that they noticed the car had two different registration plates-XAE-646 for the front and WPD-303 for the back.

Solito said that as they closed in on the suspects' car near the old Producer's Market, the passengers immediately fired at them.

"They opened the car windows and just peppered our vehicle with gunfire prompting us to retaliate," said Solito, who suffered gunshot wounds in his legs.

He said Sy was immediately hit during the first spate of gunfire. He said that even if he and his men were wounded, they were able to return fire and damage the suspects' car.

Police said one of the suspects was wounded after they found bloodstains on the suspects' car.

Justo said a .45 pistol and several .45 pistol and M-16 rifle empty shells were also found in the car.

PNP-TMG director Chief Supt. Renato Paredes, PNP-TMG director, said in an interview over station dzBB that he already ordered all TMG units to continue their pursuit operation against the suspects. He said there would be no letup until the suspects are arrested.

Paredes said the TMG would give all possible assistance to the victims of the shootout, especially the lawmen, who were wounded.

Sources at the Mandaluyong City police headquarters believed that soldiers or someone with military training are behind the robbery and shootout. They noted that the gunmen were precise in their movements and determined to use their high-power weapons.

## Pangarap residents march to Malacañang

**By Tina Santos**

THOUSANDS of residents of the disputed Pangarap Village in Caloocan City will march to Malacañang today and appeal to President Macapagal-Arroyo to urge businessman Gregorio "Greggy" Araneta to stop harassing them.

Olivia Cuevas, a resident of the village and member of the Concerned Citizens of Pangarap, said they also want the President to order the speedy resolution of the reversion case which Caloocan City Rep. Enrico "Recom" Echiverri filed against Araneta.

The 156-hectare Pangarap Village has been the subject of a longstanding dispute between the Araneta family and the residents.

Rep. Echiverri, of Caloocan City's District 1, filed the reversion case two weeks ago on behalf of the residents, believing it would end the cycle of violence over the contested property which started in the mid-1980s.

Though Cuevas admitted that Echiverri's initiative of filing the case was a great boost to Pangarap residents, she said the litigation process might take a very long time.

"We're not saying that Echiverri's move wasn't enough," Cuevas said. "But we can't just sit here and wait while Araneta continues to harass us."

Cuevas said residents believe that only President Macapagal can help them resolve the case.

"We're counting on the President," Cuevas said.

Truckloads of policemen trooped to the area on Thursday to keep the peace, after around 20 armed security guards of Araneta stormed the village and threatened the residents.

## Christ reincarnated?

**ON TARGET**

*Ramon Tulfo*

ABU Sabaya is dead. He fell bloodied in the sea from a boat he and others were riding in after they were shot by pursuing Marines and members of the Navy's Special Warfare Group (Swag).

As of 4 p.m. Friday, when this column was being written, Sabaya's body could not be found. The Moro bastard could have drowned even if he was a good swimmer because of his wound.

It's very unlikely, though, that the sharks ate him. Shark's don't eat their own kind.

* * *

**The hunt for Abu Sayyaf terrorists will continue even with Sabaya's death. All of these beasts should be accounted for, dead or alive.**

**In order that their fellow Moros would not imitate these terrorists, government soldiers who capture them dead should parade their decapitated bodies in public. If they're captured alive, their hands should be tied up and the rope attached to a running vehicle.**

**You say they should be treated humanely? Why? Were they humane to their kidnapped victims whom they raped, humiliated or beheaded?**

* * *

Since time immemorial, criminals on the run or in hiding have never learned this hard fact: Crime doesn't pay. Sooner or later, the law will catch up with them. If not sooner, then later.

And if the criminal gets away from the law, he surely cannot escape karmic justice. Karma is the universal law of retribution and reward.

You reap what you sow. If you get away with killing another human being without justification, you'll see a person close to your heart suffering the same fate as your victim.

That's as sure as the sun rises in the east and sets in the west.

The cult Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA) whose leader, Ruben Ecleo Jr., claims to be the reincarnation of Jesus Christ, would not have existed if our country were progressive.

Most of the cult members belong to the poor, uneducated masses. These people, out of desperation, cling to promises of glib-tongued leaders, even if those promises are nothing but false hopes.

The unschooled poor hope for deliverance from their miserable condition. Even if, in the back of their minds, they know that their leaders are pulling their legs.

* * *

**Ruben Ecleo Jr. is not better or worse than Joseph Ejercito Estrada, Erap to his million of fans.**

**Erap convinced the masses he was their savior and became president of the republic. Up to now, many people think that Erap is being persecuted by the government, even after they have been told of his mansions and profligate ways.**

**Exposed as a drug addict and murderer, Ecleo is still able to make PBMA cultists believe that he is being persecuted.**

* * *

They say that when you are very poor, fortune gives you a double whammy: You tend to have no money and no power of reasoning.

Most poor people become victims of guileful persons with the gift of gab, or politicians.

The poor and unschooled cling to every word of their gifted brethren.

Look at Ecleo: His followers believe he's Jesus Christ reincarnated. How could a man, who has a face only his mother could love, claim to be divine?

* * *

**Surigao del Norte Gov. Robert Lyndon Barbers was quoted in reports as saying that the PBMA has 10 million members.**

**You mean, Governor, there are 10 million gullible Filipinos? That's 14 percent of the population!**

***Tsk, tsk, tsk! Asta ba ikaw, Gobernador, gullible gihapon?***

* * *

Rep. Glenda Ecleo of Surigao del Norte should be charged in court for harboring a criminal, her son Ruben Jr.

Many times the congresswoman told policemen, who wanted to serve Ruben Jr. an arrest warrant for the murder of his wife, that her son had left Dinagat Island in Surigao del Norte, the PBMA headquarters.

She fooled the police when she knew Ruben Jr. was very much around the island.

Konsentidorang nanay, that's what Congresswoman Ecleo is.

* * *

**The camp of Sen. Panfilo Lacson accused Director Reynaldo Wycoco of the National Bureau of Investigation of owning a mansion on a one-third hectare estate in Cabiao, Nueva Ecija. The property has been estimated at P100 million.**

**Now, Lacson and his cohorts have to eat their word. The property does not belong to Wycoco but to his sister, Ma. Luisa W. Gertsberger, who's married to a foreigner.**

**"Mon, I never expected this fight (with Lacson) to be so difficult," Wycoco said.**

* * *

The NBI chief said that lies about him and his family have been peddled by the "other camp"—Wycoco is too much of a gentleman to mention Lacson by name—which started when he was tasked to dig up on the senator's wealth abroad.

He said that he was reminded of an Italian prosecutor named (Giovanni) Falcone, who was killed by the Mafia for sending some of its members to jail.

Keep on fighting, Wykes! The good will always triumph over evil.

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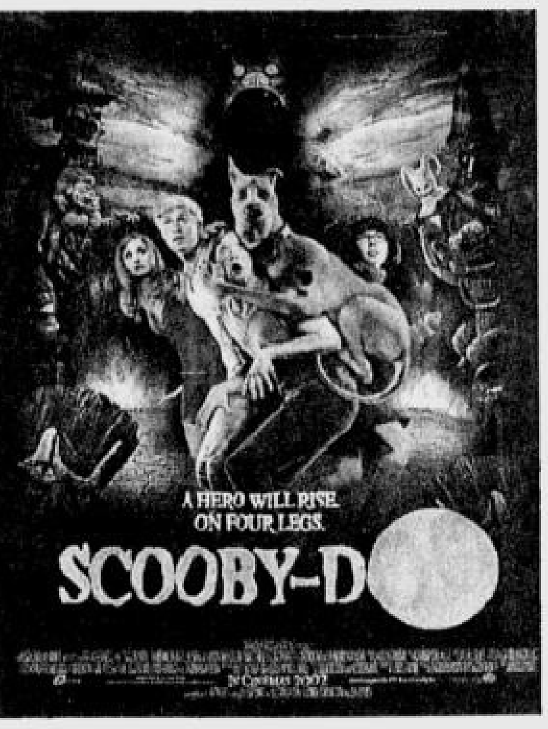
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6 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
7 (DOLBY) SUM OF ALL FEARS
8 DISKARTE

### Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 BAD COMPANY
2 LIFE OR SOMETHING . .
3 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO
4 MAGKAPATID
5 (SDDS) SUM OF ALL FEARS

### Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 MAGKAPATID

### Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 DISKARTE

### Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson MAMASAN
Lords I THINK I'M IN LOVE
Jennet

### MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 LIFE OR SOMETHING
2 MAGKAPATID
3 SUM OF ALL FEARS

### Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3

### Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
**SUPER CINERAMA**
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) DISKARTE
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
4 MAGKAPATID
5 SUM OF ALL FEARS

### New Divisoria Mall
**DIVISORIA CINEMA**
tel 244.4619

1
2
3
4
5
6

### FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2

### Berma
tel 879.2029

1 DISKARTE
2 MAGKAPATID

### CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1
2

## CINEMA 2000

### Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1 SCOOBY DOO
2 MAGKAPATID
3 (DTS) SUM OF ALL FEARS

### Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
2 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO
3 (DOLBY) SUM OF ALL FEARS
4 MAGKAPATID

### Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
2 (DOLBY) SUM OF ALL FEARS
3 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER

### Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 DISKARTE
2 SUPER B
3 MAGKAPATID
4

### Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2 DISKARTE
3 (DOLBY) MAGKAPATID
4 (DTS) MURDER BY NUMBERS

### Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) DISKARTE
2 SHIRLEY
3 MAMASAN
4 (DTS) MAGKAPATID

### Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 MAGKAPATID
3 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO
4 DISKARTE
5 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .

### Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 MAGKAPATID
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 SUM OF ALL FEARS

### Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 MAGKAPATID
3 SCOOBY DOO

### Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1
2 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
3 BUKANG BIBIG

### Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1
2
3

### Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS) I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO

### Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1 CLOSED

### Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 SUPER B
2 MAGKAPATID
3 DISKARTE

### Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 SUPER B
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 MAGKAPATID
4 DISKARTE

### Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 MAGKAPATID
3 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO
4 I THINK I'M IN LOVE

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ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

THX
CMG INTERNATIONAL

### SNEAK PREVIEW

**"BAD COMPANY"**
ANTHONY HOPKINS
CHRIS ROCK
Date: June 24 & 25, 2002
THEATERS:
Gotesco City, Gotesco Grand, Gotesco Commonwealth, Gotesco Ortigas, Festival Alabang, All Mall

**"LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT"**
ANGELINA JOLIE
EDWARD BURNS
R-TIME: 1:43 RATING: PG-13
Date: June 24 & 25, 2002
THEATERS:
Gotesco City, Gotesco Grand Central, Gotesco Commonwealth, Gotesco Ortigas, Festival Alabang, All Mall, Cinerama, Masagana Pasay, Walter Mart Calamba, Olivarez LB, Pavilion Biñan, Olivarez Biñan, Target Mall Sta. Rosa, Market Place, Premiere HX

---

# SM CINEMA
**SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999**
**NOW SHOWING**

### SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1 BAD COMPANY
2 MONSTER'S BALL
3 SCOOBY DOO
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER
5 SUM OF ALL FEARS
6 MAGKAPATID
7 DISKARTE
8 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .

### SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1 MAGKAPATID
2 MONSTER'S BALL
3 SCOOBY DOO
4 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5 SUM OF ALL FEARS
6 SUPER B
7 BAD COMPANY
8 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
9 A WALK TO REMEMBER
10 DISKARTE

### SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 MONSTER'S BALL
2 A WALK TO REMEMBER
3 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4 SCOOBY DOO
5 SUM OF ALL FEARS
6 MAGKAPATID
7 SUM OF ALL FEARS
8 SCOOBY DOO
9 DISKARTE
10 BAD COMPANY
11 MAMASAN
12 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .

### SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 BAD COMPANY
2 SUM OF ALL FEARS
3 SCOOBY DOO
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER
5 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
6 BAD COMPANY
7 DISKARTE
8 MONSTER'S BALL
9 MAGKAPATID
10 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
11 SCOOBY DOO
12 SUPER B

### SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1 DRAGONFLY
2 A WALK TO REMEMBER
3 SUM OF ALL FEARS
4 SCOOBY DOO
5 MONSTER'S BALL
6 SUM OF ALL FEARS
7 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
8 BAD COMPANY
9 MAGKAPATID
10 SCOOBY DOO
11 DISKARTE
12 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .

### SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9293452

1 A WALK TO REMEMBER
2 MONSTER'S BALL
3 DISKARTE
4 MAGKAPATID
5 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
6 BAD COMPANY
7 SCOOBY DOO
8 SUM OF ALL FEARS
9 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

### SM SOUTHMALL
8068888

1 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
2 MONSTER'S BALL
3 SCOOBY DOO
4 BAD COMPANY
5 DISKARTE
6 MAMASAN
7 MAGKAPATID
8 SUM OF ALL FEARS
9 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
10 A WALK TO REMEMBER

### SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1 PANIC ROOM
2 SUM OF ALL FEARS
3 DRAGONFLY
4 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
6 MAMASAN
7 MAGKAPATID
8 SCOOBY DOO

### SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 CASS & CARRY
2 CLOSED
3 SCOOBY DOO
4 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5 SUM OF ALL FEARS
6 MAGKAPATID
7 CLOSED
8 PANIC ROOM

### SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
4 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5 DISKARTE
6 MAGKAPATID

### SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 MAGKAPATID
2 SUM OF ALL FEARS
3 SCOOBY DOO
4 BAD COMPANY

### SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984

1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

### SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 MAGKAPATID
4 DISKARTE

### SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 MAGKAPATID
3 JIHAD WARRIOR
4 CASS & CARRY
5 DRAGONFLY
6 SCOOBY DOO

### SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

*SOON TO OPEN!*
*4 NEW*
*STATE-OF-THE-ART*
*VISION & SOUND*

### SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

*SOON TO OPEN!*
*4 NEW*
*STATE-OF-THE-ART*
*VISION & SOUND*

### THE PODIUM
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City

1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 SCOOBY DOO

W/ LATE NIGHT SCREENING ON WEEKENDS 6389781-85

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# MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS
## @ Robinsons Malls
**NOW SHOWING**

### Galleria
632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

1 THX SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 SUM OF ALL FEARS
3 MONSTER BALL
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER
5 SCOOBY DOO
6 SCOOBY DOO
7 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
8 MAGKAPATID
9 RESIDENT EVIL
10 DISKARTE

### Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 DISKARTE
3 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER
5 MAGKAPATID
6 MONSTER BALL
7 SCOOBY DOO

### Metro East - Marcos hway
682- 8193 / 8280

1 DISKARTE
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 SUM OF ALL FEARS
4 MONSTER BALL
5 SUM OF ALL FEARS
6 SCOOBY DOO
7 A WALK TO REMEMBER
8 MAGKAPATID

### Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 RESIDENT EVIL
4 SUPER B
5 MAGKAPATID
6 MONSTER BALL
7 A WALK TO REMEMBER
8 DISKARTE

### Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 A WALK TO REMEMBER
3 MONSTER BALL
4 SCOOBY DOO
5 DISKARTE
6 MAGKAPATID

### Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 MAGKAPATID
4 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
5 JIHAD WARRIOR
6 RESIDENT EVIL

### Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1 MAGKAPATID
2 SUM OF ALL FEARS
3 PANIC ROOM
4 SCOOBY DOO
5 CASS & CARY
6 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

### Star Mills- Sn Fernando, Pamp.
875- 1927
961-5318 / 5270

1 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
2 DISKARTE
3 MAGKAPATID
4 SCOOBY DOO
5 SUM OF ALL FEARS
6 SUM OF ALL FEARS

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* SUPER B
* DISKARTE
* UTANG NI TATANG
* MAMASAN
* I THINK I'M IN LOVE
* MAGKAPATID

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# Brazilian group plays bossa nova music

IF you're looking for a heady dose of relaxing, sensuous melodies and provocative rhythms, you're bound to fall in love with the bossa nova.

Although it originated in Brazil in the 1950s, the genre continues to enjoy a steady stream of converts, including jazz purists and even venerable rock icons Sting and Eric Clapton.

In Manila, a new Brazilian group is making waves in the live concert circuit with their refreshing interpretations of samba and bossa nova originals, popularized by Antonio Carlos Jobim, Astrud Gilberto and Ivan Lins.

Guarana, named after a tropical fruit endemic to Brazil, boasts of a rhythm section that reads like a who's who in the local jazz front.

Members are Richie Quirino on drums, Ding Basbas on tenor sax, Prof. Ron Nethercutt on trombone, Mon Guevara on percussion, Tom Marco on guitar and Ruben Reyes on bass.

On special occasions, Bading Tuason plays the piano and Butch Silverio the trumpet and flugelhorn.

Guarana's lead vocalist, Eileen Sison, hatched the idea of a bossa nova group when she met up with drummer Richie Quirino after her trip to Brazil late last year.

"It was a self-imposed journey to get acquainted with the Brazilian culture—the language, music and everything else in between," says Elaine, the former vocalist of Coolwind Band and Acoustic Jive.

"It so happened that Richie was putting up a Latin group for an immediate gig at Ran Kan Kan, a Latino bar in Alabang," she adds.

"I said yes, and in a matter of days, he already assembled this impressive rhythm section."

News of their initial gig spread like wildfire and soon after, their music permeated the snazzy confines of such bars as Jazz Central, Azzurro, Art Avenue, Che's, Jivaro and Monk's Dream.

Guarana plays at Jivaro (along Heritage Park at The Fort) on June 26, and at Sanctum (Puerto Isabel, Intramuros) on July 4.

**GUARANA.** Making waves in the live concert circuit.

## THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

| | |
|---|---|
| **ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101** | |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1 | DISKARTE |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2 | MAGKAPATID |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS) | SCOOBY-DOO |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS) | SUM OF ALL FEARS |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS) | A WALK TO REMEMBER |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY) | MONSTERS BALL |
| ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY) | I THINK I'M IN LOVE |
| FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY) | SCOOBY-DOO |
| FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY) | DISKARTE |
| FIESTA CARNIVAL | |
| NEW FRONTIER | |
| **MANILA** | |
| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | CLOSED |
| MIRAMAR | SEX MEDUSA / HIYAS SA PARAISO |
| ODEON | SUM OF FEAR |
| ODEON-2 | MAMASAN |
| ROBEN | DISKARTE |
| TANDEM-1 | ITLOG |
| TANDEM-2 | IKA-7 GLORYA |
| TIMES | COLLATERAL DAMAGE / MIMIC-2 |
| **QUEZON CITY** | |
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | CLOSED |
| ACT-4 | CLOSED |
| CORONET-2 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| QUEZON-1 | MAMASAN |
| REMAR | DISKARTE |
| REMAR-2 | MAMASAN |
| **NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA** | |
| A | DISKARTE |
| B | MAGKAPATID |
| C | SUPER B |
| **MANDALUYONG CITY** | |
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA-1 | SCOOBY-DOO |
| CINEMA-2 | FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL |
| **CAINTA RIZAL** | |
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-5401 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | SUPER B |
| CINEMA-2 | MAMASAN |
| CINEMA-3 | I THINK I'M IN LOVE |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | SCOOBY DOO |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | SUM OF ALL FEARS |
| CINEMA-6 | MAGKAPATID |
| CINEMA-7 | RESIDENT EVIL |
| CINEMA-8 | STAR WARS |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | SUM OF ALL FEARS |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | A WALK TO REMEMBER |
| CINEMA-11 (SDDS) | SCOOBY DOO |
| CINEMA-12 | MONSTER'S BALL |
| CINEMA-14 | DISKARTE |
| CINEMA-15 | MAGKAPATID |
| **LORES** | |
| CINEMA-2 | CLOSED |
| CINEMA-3 | CLOSED |
| **POWER PLANT CINEMA** | |
| CINEMA-1 | LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT |
| CINEMA-2 | SCOOBY DOO |
| CINEMA-3 | SUM OF ALL FEARS |
| CINEMA-4 | BAD COMPANY |
| CINEMA-5 | MONSTER'S BALL |
| CINEMA-6 | SUM OF ALL FEARS |
| **UNIWIDE METROMALL** | |
| (LAS PINAS) | |
| CINEMA-1 | |
| CINEMA-2 | |
| CINEMA-4 | |
| **UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL** | |
| (PARAÑAQUE) | |
| CINEMA-1 | ALIPIN NG TUKSO |
| CINEMA-2 | THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE |
| CINEMA-4 | ALAMID |

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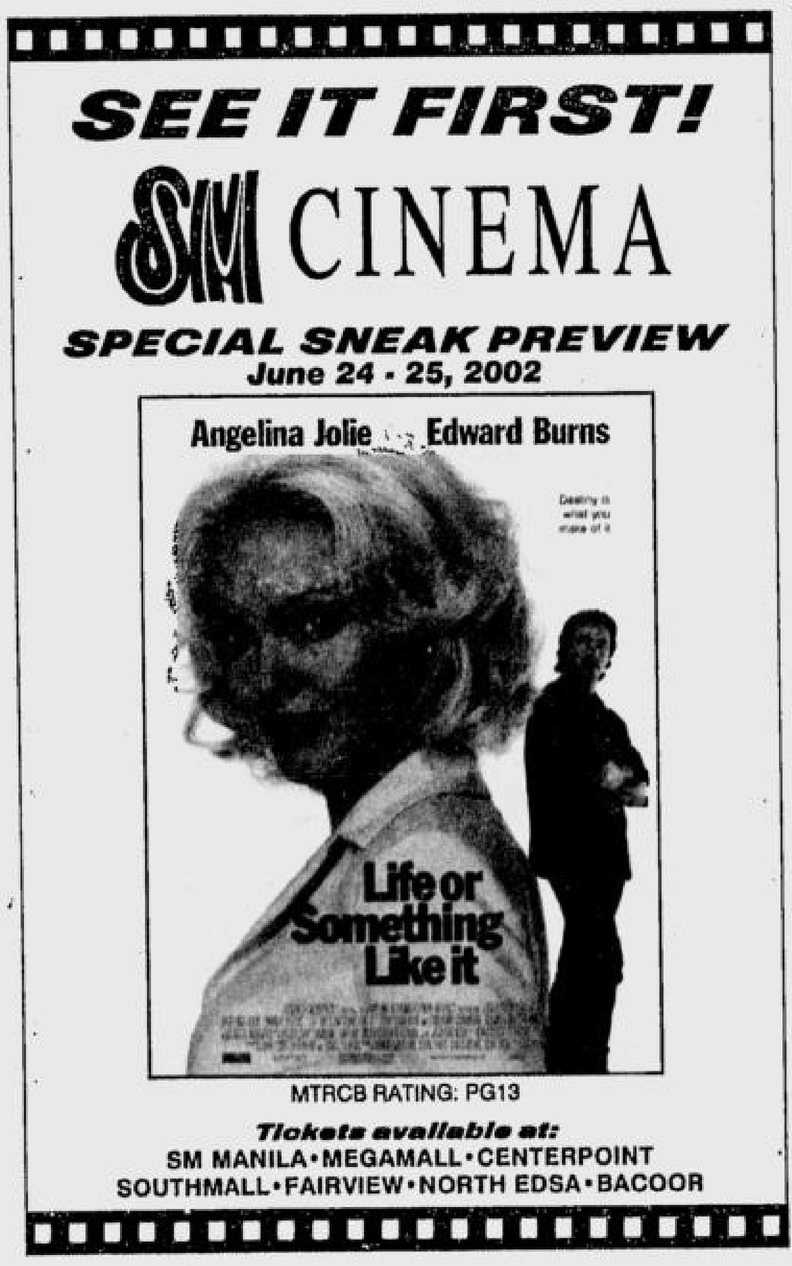
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SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW
June 24 - 25, 2002
Angelina Jolie Edward Burns
Life or Something Like it
MTRCB RATING: PG13
Tickets available at:
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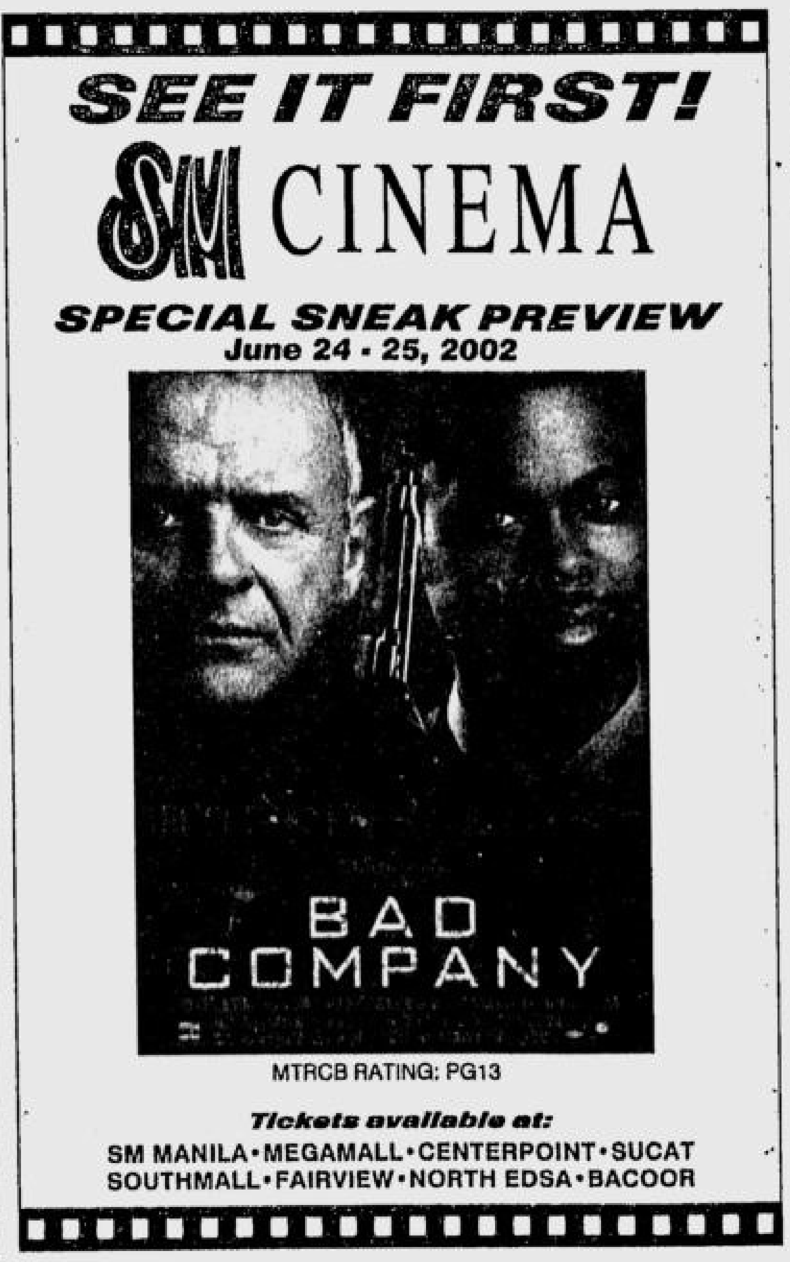
SEE IT FIRST!
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June 24 - 25, 2002
BAD COMPANY
MTRCB RATING: PG13
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MTRCB RATING ▸ GP GENERAL PATRONAGE
ALL AGES ADMITTED
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DINGDONG DANTES
NO.1
Pinupuri ng mga kritiko
Pinipilahan ng mga tao!
RECORD-BREAKING CERTIFIED BLOCKBUSTER HIT!
Nagiiyakan, Nagtatawanan, Nagmamahalan.
SHARON CUNETA
JUDY ANN SANTOS
MAGKAPATID
JOEL LAMANGAN
FUJIFILM
SHOWING NA NATIONWIDE!

# Winona Ryder jokes about her theft arrest

LOS ANGELES—Winona Ryder has poked fun at her shoplifting arrest on a TV show, the MTV Movie Awards and the cover of W magazine, which featured her wearing a "Free Winona" T-shirt.

Her publicist, Mara Buxbaum, said the actress—who has pleaded innocent to shoplifting and drug charges—has only been trying to be self-deprecating.

"The jokes that were made were self-mocking," Buxbaum said. "She was trying to joke about herself and at no level was she trying to be disrespectful to the courts and legal system."

But prosecutors aren't amused.

"This is a criminal case, these are serious charges and not really a joking matter," said Sandi Gibbons, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles County district attorney.

Ryder has been stuck trying to promote hew new comedy, "Mr. Deeds," while avoiding serious discussion of the felony case.

Other stars have used humor to blunt a scandal's edge, although usually not until the legal matter has been settled, said Alan Mayer, one of Hollywood's top crisis-management publicists.

"If the charge is something that is not horrendously serious, it's not necessarily a bad idea to appear in public and not so much make light of it, but at least indicate this is not a nuclear confrontation in South Asia," said Mayer, who represented Halle Berry in her 2000 car-crash case and comedian Paula Poundstone in her child endangerment case last year.

Hugh Grant's appearance on "The Tonight Show" in 1995 shortly after his arrest with a prostitute is considered a prime example of using humor to defuse a scandal. But the actor joked only after apologizing publicly.

"I think it would be bollocks, really, to hide behind (excuses)," he told host Jay Leno. "I did a bad thing . . . There you have it."

Ryder, however, seems to be following in the footsteps of singer George Michael, who has said he thinks that the unfavorable community service deal he got in 1998 was the result of a video he made satirizing the police who arrested him for lewd conduct.

Ryder, who declined to be interviewed for this article, was arrested in December at a Saks Fifth Avenue store in Beverly Hills for allegedly possessing painkillers without a prescription and stealing nearly $6,000 worth of designer merchandise.

Charged with second-degree burglary, grand theft, vandalism and possession of a controlled substance, the 30-year-old could face more than three years in prison if convicted. A tentative trial date has been set for Aug. 13 in state Superior Court.

Ryder's attorney, Mark Geragos, says the incident was a misunderstanding turned into malicious prosecution.

So far, prosecutors have rejected Ryder's efforts to get her charges reduced to misdemeanors, and have suggested that her alleged theft is part of a pattern of behavior.

"From just a human being's perspective," said Gibbons of the district attorney's office, "I don't shop at Saks. I'm more inclined to shop at (discount store) Target, as are most people. I don't know what kind of jury she's going to have, but if they're people like me then perhaps they won't be laughing either."

The arrest and its fallout have upstaged Ryder's roles in "Mr. Deeds," which opens later this month with Adam Sandler, and the sci-fi drama "Simone," with Al Pacino, due in August.

Ryder's last two projects, the Satanic thriller "Lost Souls" and the weepy romance "Autumn in New York," were box office disappointments.

Ryder and Sandler appeared on stage together during the MTV Movie Awards earlier this month, and Sandler hemmed and hawed his way around her legal woes.

"I know that it's on the minds of many. There are millions of people watching. You say Winona Ryder and people want to know this, so I'm gonna just ask," he said.

The question: What was it like kissing her former boyfriend, Johnny Depp?

In her "SNL" monologue on May 18, Ryder deadpanned, "You know, people have been acting a little strange around here. You know, there's like, you know, a lot of like locking of doors and—and shifty eyes and—and a lot of frisking."

In a later shoplifting sketch, she mockingly scolded other characters for stealing.

Some sympathizers see Ryder's arrest as a setup, while other fans consider her behavior evidence of a troubled psyche.

"Fan or not . . . Don't you think her explanations have been a bit weak? Don't you think her behavior has been a bit odd?" wrote admirer Darren Garrison in a Winona Ryder chat posting. "Being a fan shouldn't mean turning a blind eye."

Said Mayer: "It's not enough for (a celebrity) to be innocent of the charges. They have to act in the way that the public expects an innocent person to act." **AP**

# Getting pregnant not a priority for buff Jackielou

**DOLLYWOOD**

*Dolly Anne Carvajal*

I CHANCED upon **Jackielou Blanco** at **Pin Antonio**'s Salon de Manila. Pin's scissorhands were at optimum performance level as she brought my hair back to life and gave Jackie a blondie look for her new soap opera that will premiere on GMA-7 soon.

It's been awhile since I last saw Jackie. What a coincidence that our friendship, which started in **Boots Babushka**'s parlor many hairstyles ago, got rekindled in Pin's salon which happens to be a few blocks away from where Boots' parlor used to be located.

I cajoled Jackie into lending me her fit and fab bod until Mr. Right came along so he wouldn't have to try to find my missing waistline.

Jackie laughed. "Too bad I only have one body. That's why I really take care of it and I think everyone must do the same. Going to the gym should be part of your lifestyle. If you really want to do something you will find the time."

Her winning form has opened many more doors for her, like TV shows, commercials and print ads. One good thing surely leads to another.

"I guess when you feel good knowing that you're fit and healthy, it can't help but show and it's nice to be able to spread around your inner joy by inspiring people to start to exercise and eat right."

No doubt her almost perfect vital stats are all the aphrodisiac her hubby **Ricky Davao** would ever need so they will have another baby.

Jackie blushed and then laughed. *"Ay! Bawal mabuntis pa uli!* We are enjoying our grown-up kids and each other as it is, so getting pregnant is not a priority at the moment."

Doesn't Ricky get jealousy attacks now that Jackie is at her sexiest? "No. Of course he's proud of me. He knows how hard I work out to achieve this form. He was just a bit shocked when he saw my ad where I'm wearing skimpy bikinis."

Since she won the title Ms Great Body 2001, isn't she thinking of joining an international body beautiful search? "That remains to be a dream. According to my trainer, though, I have to be a US resident for quite sometime to be able to qualify to compete abroad. That will have to wait for now."

Let's weight and see.

### Danica the host

**Danica Sotto** is the newest addition to "Talk TV." She's picking up where **Janet Mcbride** left off. Janet was rumored to be pregnant with **Mo Twister**'s baby so she had to leave for Australia in a huff despite her booming career.

I was a guest on "Talk TV" last Thursday and I must say that Danica is blending effortlessly with the other hosts, **Tintin Bersola**, **Julius Babao** and **Ryan Agoncillo**. She obviously has a lot of "Ms D" (the irrepressible **Dina Bonnevie**) in her.

And what advice did her mom give her?

"To listen really well to what the guests say so I can dig in and fish some more, instead of just sticking to a script. The more spontaneous the better."

How is she faring so far? Danica beamed. "Of course I'm still a bit nervous but I'm glad the staff and especially Ate Tin, Kuya Julius and Ryan have been so supportive. They make my work more fun."

From one celebrity daughter to another who's trying to carve a name on her own while basking in her famous mom's shadow: Keep going, Danica! Show 'em that we're not out to replace our moms because that's unthinkable. We're just longing to pay tribute to our moms by giving a new twist to what they started.

### Defensor the defender

I immensely enjoyed having dinner with the *muy simpatico* Housing Secretary **Mike Defensor**. I like his cool yet authoritative style. His presence commands respect but he does not come across as intimidating.

The movie press will be delighted to know that Secretary Defensor is all agog drafting his plan to put up a medium-rise housing project for media people who have a tight budget.

"Times are hard and not all press people can afford to rent an apartment or a condo so I thought of a project where they can pay P3,000-P5,000 for a number of years for a place that will eventually become their own. Without the movie press, none of the stars can ever be really well-known so I feel it's only right that something be given back to them."

With Secretary Defensor's good intentions, movie people may as well call him Secretary Defender.

### Personal

*Muchisimas gracias, mi amiga* Pin Antonio for my new look (variation of broken edges . . . to match my various episodes of a broken heart). What a touch you've got!

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com

# 'The Probe Team' in Samal trek

THIS year, "The Probe Team" celebrates its 15th anniversary by taking a break from Manila's urban jungle. With enough to sustain their bare necessities, "The Probe Team" reporters fly down south to the beautiful island of Samal, unaware of what lies ahead.

For three days and two nights, Cheche Lazaro, Bernadette Sembrano, Love Añover, Eliza Zamora, Jay Orense and Robert Alejandro, take on the ultimate test of teamwork and survival in the dense forest and white sand beaches of Samal Island.

It's a race between two teams—Cheche, Robert and Eliza against the team of Bernadette, Jay and Love—swimming for their lives, scaling the famous Aundawan Range, jumping from unknown heights and facing their worst fears.

Find out how Cheche endures three challenging days without a bathroom!

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| BAD COMPANY - P13<br>12:10, 2:35,<br>5:00, 7:25, 9:50 | MONSTER'S BALL - R18<br>12:20, 2:45,<br>5:10, 7:35, 10:00 | SUM OF ALL FEARS - P13<br>2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10 |

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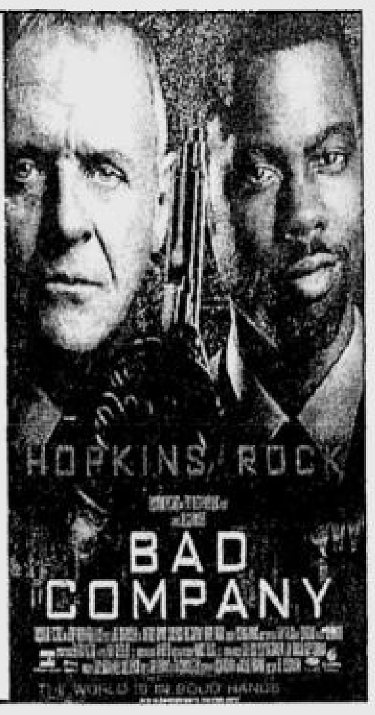

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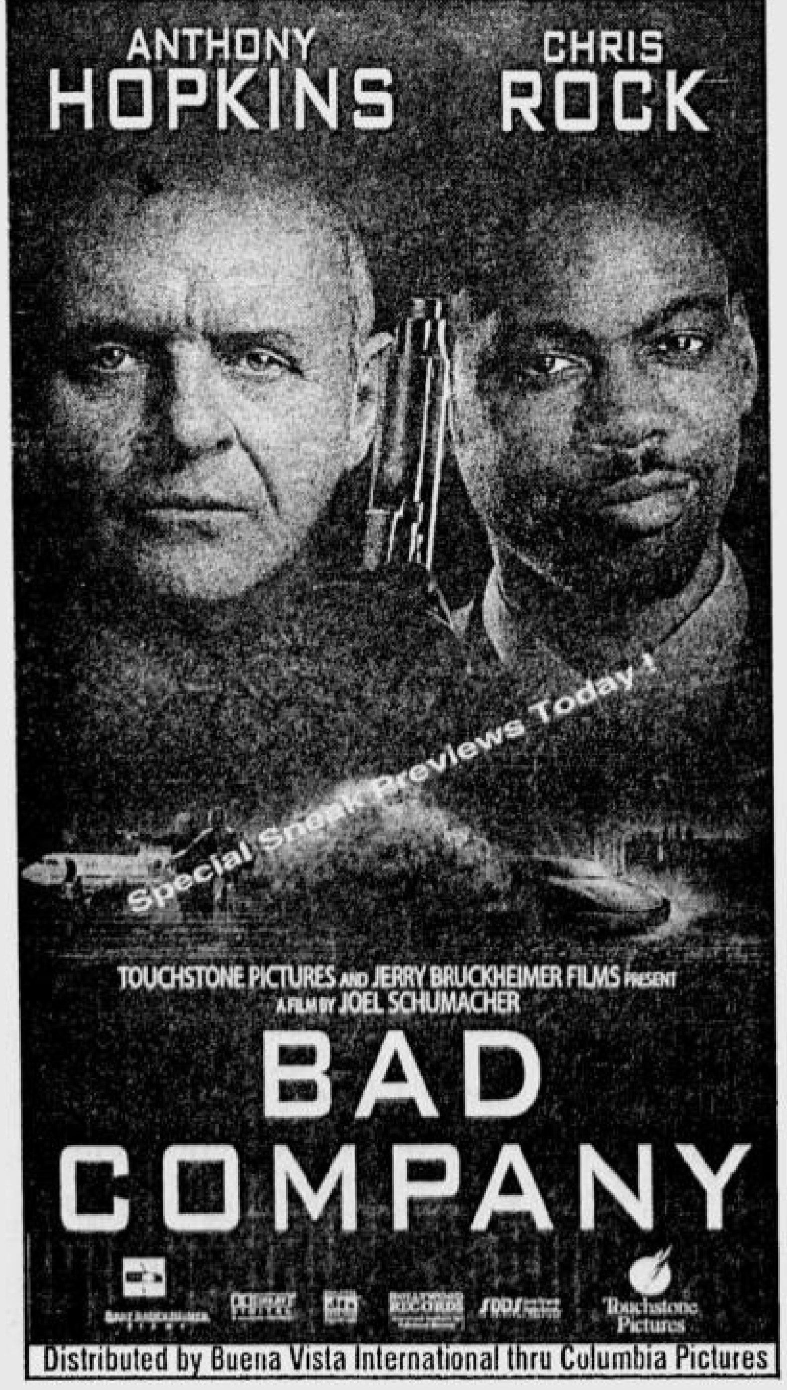

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| 3 BAD COMPANY | 3 SUM OF ALL FEARS<br>12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 | 3 SCOOBY DOO | 3 MONSTER'S BALL<br>10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 | 3 SCOOBY DOO |
| 4 SCOOBY DOO | 4 MONSTER'S BALL | MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE<br>9:00 PM<br>June 28 & 29 | 4 BAD COMPANY<br>1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 | 4 MONSTER'S BALL |
| | 5 MAGKAPATID | | 5 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .<br>12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20 | 5 BAD COMPANY |
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# Remembering Richard Rodgers

NEW YORK—For a year now, Mary Rodgers has been what she calls "a roving ambassador," attending revivals, concerts, lectures, exhibitions and giving interviews about what it was like growing up as the daughter of a difficult, demanding composer who, more than anyone else, helped define American musical theater in the 20th century.

The celebrations—leading up to what would have been his 100th birthday on June 28—have made her aware of how much she loves the music of Richard Rodgers, the man she charmingly refers to as "Daddy."

"I get to know it so much better when I hear it so often," she says. "So I am constantly learning, and constantly frustrated by the fact that when he was alive, I was never able to tell him how much I loved what he did. We didn't have that kind of relationship. But I also don't think anybody was ever able to communicate that to him."

These days, Rodgers, her younger sister Linda, and hundreds of performers and other theater people are doing just that: honoring a man who wrote some of the most glorious songs ever heard on a stage.

Any recitation of what he created threatens to become a laundry list. With lyricist Larry Hart, there were such classic shows as "Babes in Arms," "On Your Toes," "The Boys From Syracuse" and"Pal Joey.".

With Oscar Hammerstein II, he created even bigger hits: "Carousel," "South Pacific," "Flower Drum Song," "The King and I," "The Sound of Music," "Oklahoma!"—among others.

"I love the stuff—nothing like calling that music stuff," Rodgers says with a laugh in an interview from London where she and her sister are doing a whirlwind series of interviews.

She mentions the rarely seen Rodgers and Hart musical "Dearest Enemy," recently given a New York production by a small theater troupe. It was a Revolutionary War musical, she explains, a show her father "wrote when he was just a baby." Actually, he was 23.

"It had four of the most delicious tunes—things that I forgot or didn't know existed," she says. "They are just so adorable—and there are just tons of them in other shows. And what I am impressed with, and touched by, is the number of performers who have given their time, and not at all reluctantly. They really seem more than happy to do it."

Of course, the Rodgers centenary has had, and will have, its most noticeable celebrations on Broadway. A Trevor Nunn-directed revival of "Oklahoma!" has settled in for what looks like a lengthy run at the Gershwin Theatre.

"The Boys From Syracuse," a bawdy bit of fluff adapted from Shakespeare and blessed with such Rodgers and Hart standards as "This Can't Be Love" and "Falling in Love With Love," gets a Roundabout Theatre Company production starting in July. An Aug. 18 opening is planned.

In October, New York will see a revised version of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Flower Drum Song," which scored a major triumph last fall in Los Angeles. The Broadway version will topbill Lea Salonga, the former "Miss Saigon" star who also earned raves for "Flower Drum Song" in LA.

And for folks out of town, a new edition of "South Pacific," starring Robert Goulet, is currently touring the country.

Not bad for a composer who died in 1979.

As a child, Rodgers says she always knew what her father did for a living.

"I just wasn't aware of how many other people knew that," she adds. "But he did it at home. So we knew that he just wasn't at the piano for fun."

By the time she was 4, she had gone to her first Rodgers event, a circus show called "Jumbo"—"a musical I devoutly pray will be revived because it was so much fun," the 71-year-old Mary Rodgers says. "We wanted the Big Apple Circus to do it a couple years ago."

One footnote to all the Rodgers hoopla was the publication last November of "Somewhere for Me: A Biography of Richard Rodgers," by British-born author Meryle Secrest.

Mary Rodgers and her sister cooperated with the book, a fact filled, unsparing account of Rodgers' life, both personal and professional and dealing with, among other things, his depression, alcoholism and womanizing.

"I've evolved a theory about this whole business, since that book came out, which is: I think it is pointless to write about musical geniuses—or other kinds of geniuses—by trying to match their behavior to their product," his daughter says. "There is simply no connection at all."

Rodgers, a composer and author in her own right, prefers another recent tome, "The Richard Rodgers Reader," by Geoffrey Block, a music history professor at the University of Puget Sound.

"He (Block) is a very erudite fellow who simply compiled fascinating pieces, some of them by my father, some of them about him, including a wonderful, rather tough one by Joshua Logan and an eye-opening one by Agnes DeMille, in terms of explaining the way Daddy and Oscar worked.

"That's very revealing about the essence of a person like Richard Rodgers that the public ought to know. The rest of the stuff is pretty routine. I mean, how many people do you know who haven't strayed or . . . had a drinking problem? The world is full of people like that."

Rodgers says you can't talk about her father without talking about her mother, Dorothy, an accomplished, intelligent woman who supported her husband throughout his long career.

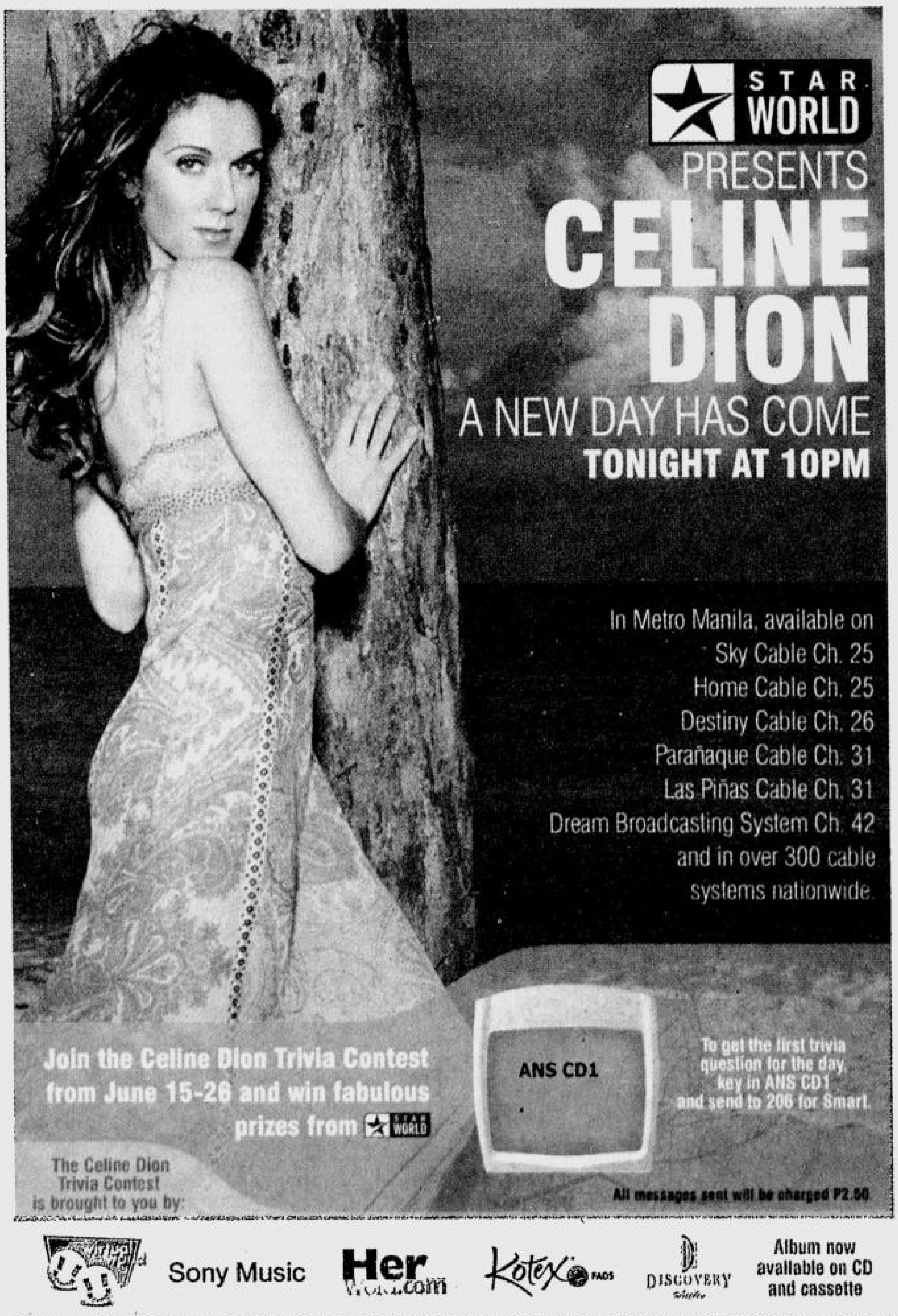
"It was a very satisfactory relationship, and I don't mean it to sound like a business arrangement," Rodgers said. "It was certainly a lot more than that. It worked, for the most part, extremely well. She provided a lot of things that meant a great deal to him: the charm and the beauty and the graciousness. All the stuff that he never would have had the time or the interest to do.

"On the other hand, she was extremely bright . . . I think from the moment she met him, there just wasn't anybody else in the world she cared about. Sometimes, my sister and I felt our intense deprivation. It was one of those marriages that was so tight that you felt as though you couldn't get in."

Asked what she misses most about not having her father around now, Rodgers says, quite simply: "Nothing."

"The wonderful thing about him was what he left behind," she explains. "In fact, in some ways I miss him less now than I did when he was alive, and I couldn't get at him. He was not an easy person for his children to communicate with.

"The communication he had and still has with his public is primarily the heartbreaking and wonderful sounds that came out of him. That's the way he communicated anger, commitment and certainly love." **AP**



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# How to foil those show biz pirates

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AT A recent film forum, the talk got around to the huge piracy problem that show biz people are facing, and what action is needed to really foil those film, video and recording pirates.

It was observed that raids yield large hauls of pirated tapes, video discs and audio discs, but the pirates soon recover and set up shop in other places, or even in the places that were raided sometime back. Clearly, raids aren't enough.

Other moves include mounting a media campaign against piracy, from the manufacture of illegal copies to buying them. Again, however, the positive results of this campaign haven't been enough to turn the tide against the pirates.

A third option is to lower the purchase price of legit tapes and discs, so that people will buy them instead of the pirated stuff. The move has encouraged buyers to "go legit," but they feel that prices can be brought down even more.

What about a combination of the three moves? Yes, the people at the forum felt that would be even better—hence, the need for all anti-piracy groups to pool their resources together and act as one.

But, would this be enough to turn the tide? Members of the audience felt that more "creative" ploys needed to be thought up to finally lick the problem. Like what?

One suggestion was for fines and other penalties to be raised to a "painful" level that the pirates would no longer be able to ignore.

What would that level be? P500,000 plus a stiff jail term, was one suggestion. The logic was that pirates term, was one suggestion. The logic was that pirates are "killing" talents, producers and distributors, so their actions constitute economic sabotage.

Another suggestion: TV, film and recording stars should go on a national performance tour to drum up public support for the industry's anti-piracy campaign. There's the feeling that the campaign is too business-oriented and impersonal for the public to warm up to, hence the need for the stars themselves to reach out and frankly ask for their fans' help in this regard.

## Boob-tube booboos

HOST: Why do you like going to beach resorts like this?

Tourist: To commute with nature!

(*Ay*, commute!)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ang* cantaloupe *ba ay hayop o prutas?*

Contestant: *Hayop!*

(No, *prutas*—you're thinking of antelope, darling!)

* * *

Host: What are the most popular tourist attractions in your place?

Guest: For historical atmosphere, tourists like going to the Spinach Fort.

(Spinach? Spinach?—Could he possibly mean Spanish?)

* * *

Quizmaster: In the Navy, which rank is higher, Commander or Captain?

Contestant: Commando!

(No, double wrong. The right answer is Captain.)

* * *

Host: What is your birthday wish for your friend?

Guest: I wish for him a lifelong of love!

(That's so—sweet!)

* * *

Quizmaster: Fill in the blank: "The Trouble with Hello Is ______"?

Contestant: —love!

(No, Goodbye!)

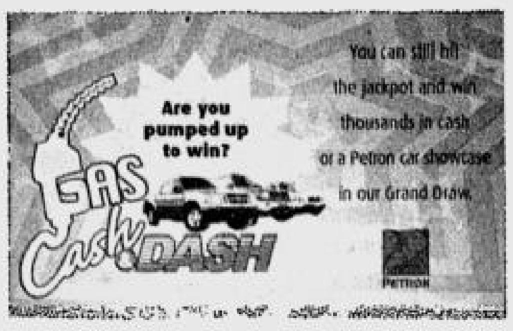
## Alien seductress

TAKING a break from legal matters on "The Practice," **Lara Flynn Boyle** plays an alien seductress in "Men in Black II."

While investigating a seemingly routine alien-on-alien crime, Jay (**Will Smith**) uncovers a diabolical plot masterminded by Boyle's character, Serleena, a monstrous creature who has disguised herself as a sexy lingerie model.

There is only one person who knows the secret of Serleena's evil mission on earth, the former MIB agent Kay (**Tommy Lee Jones**), who is now a drone in the US postal service.

Director **Barry Sonnenfeld** describes Serleena: "When she arrives on earth, she's this root that looks like a combination of artichoke and jellyfish. Then she turns into a beautiful lingerie model played by Lara—who's a delight to work with. Her performance is totally sarcastic. She's the perfect actress for me!"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# DoF seen reviving plan to tax 'texting'

By Clarissa S. Batino

**PRESSED by Malacañang to find new revenue sources, the Department of Finance is set to revive a plan to tax cellular phone calls and text messaging services.**

The plan was first announced by Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho in April but was suspended following the strong opposition by mobile phone companies and the public.

The DoF, however, was prompted to revive the plan as the government's budgetary constraints become more serious and after such a measure obtained the International Monetary Fund's nod.

A source in the department said IMF officials, during a two-week visit here this month, expressed support for the government's plan to impose a gross receipts tax on mobile phone companies.

"The proposal was presented to the IMF which agreed that additional taxes be imposed on cellular phone firms for both calls and text messaging," said a DoF official.

At present, telephone companies are slapped with a 10-percent value-added tax on domestic services and another 10 percent in communication tax for international calls.

Like all companies, cellular phone firms are also subject to the 32-percent corporate income tax.

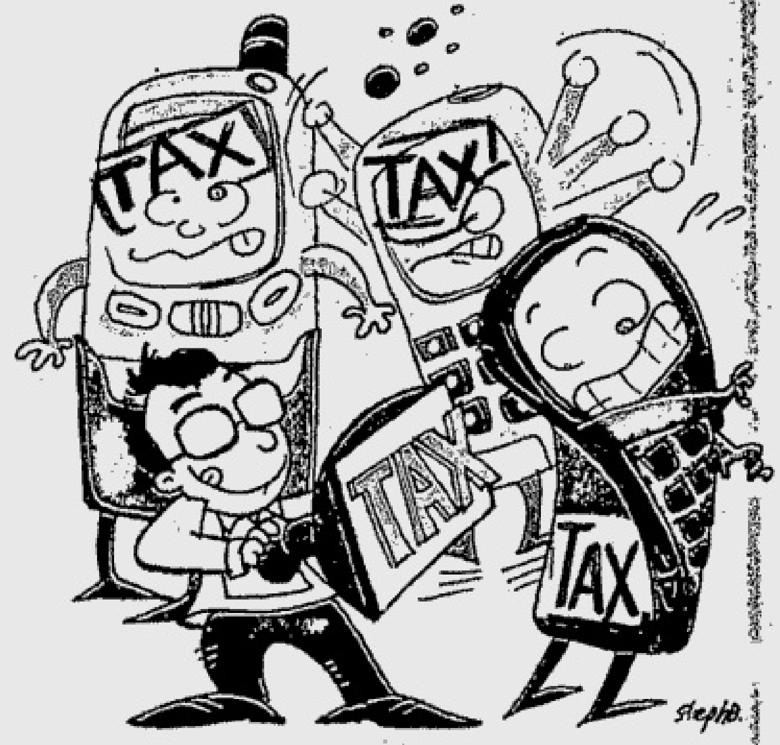
Even prior to the DoF's call for the additional taxes on cellular phone firms, two bills seeking the same measure had been filed in Congress—one sponsored by Rep. Cynthia Villar and the other by Rep. Aleta Suarez.

These bills, however, sought the imposition of 7- to 10-percent tax only on gross receipts from cellular phone calls.

A source in the department said that if the DoF decided to revive the plan, it would strongly push for the amendment of the pending bills to expand the tax coverage to include text messaging. The DoF, he said, was expected to take a more active role in lobbying for the approval of the measure.

Companies operating mobile phone service include Globe Telecom Inc. and Smart Communications Inc.

The pending proposals in Congress specifically provided the allocation of the revenues arising from this measure to the computer literacy education in public schools. However, the DoF wanted at least 40 percent of the funds to go to the budget.



"The DOF recommended that only 60 percent of the tax collected shall accrue to the government's computer literacy program and the remaining 40 percent be remitted to the general fund," said the finance department in its report to the IMF.

The DOF had said that using all of the proceeds from this measure for the government's computer literacy program would not be prudent considering that the education department was already receiving a yearly budget for this program. In 2000, the education department received P168 million for the computer literacy program.

If approved by Congress, the tax on cellular phone calls and text messaging would raise for the government P2 billion to P3 billion in additional revenues.

DOF/ B3

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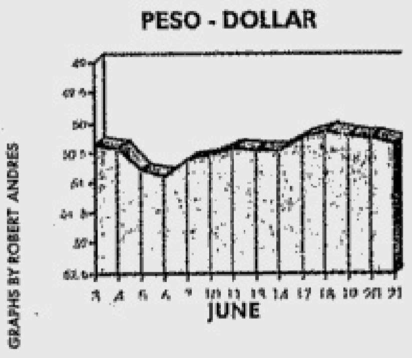

GRAPHS BY ROBERT ANDRES

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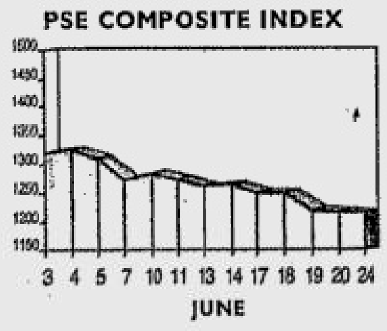
### STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B2)

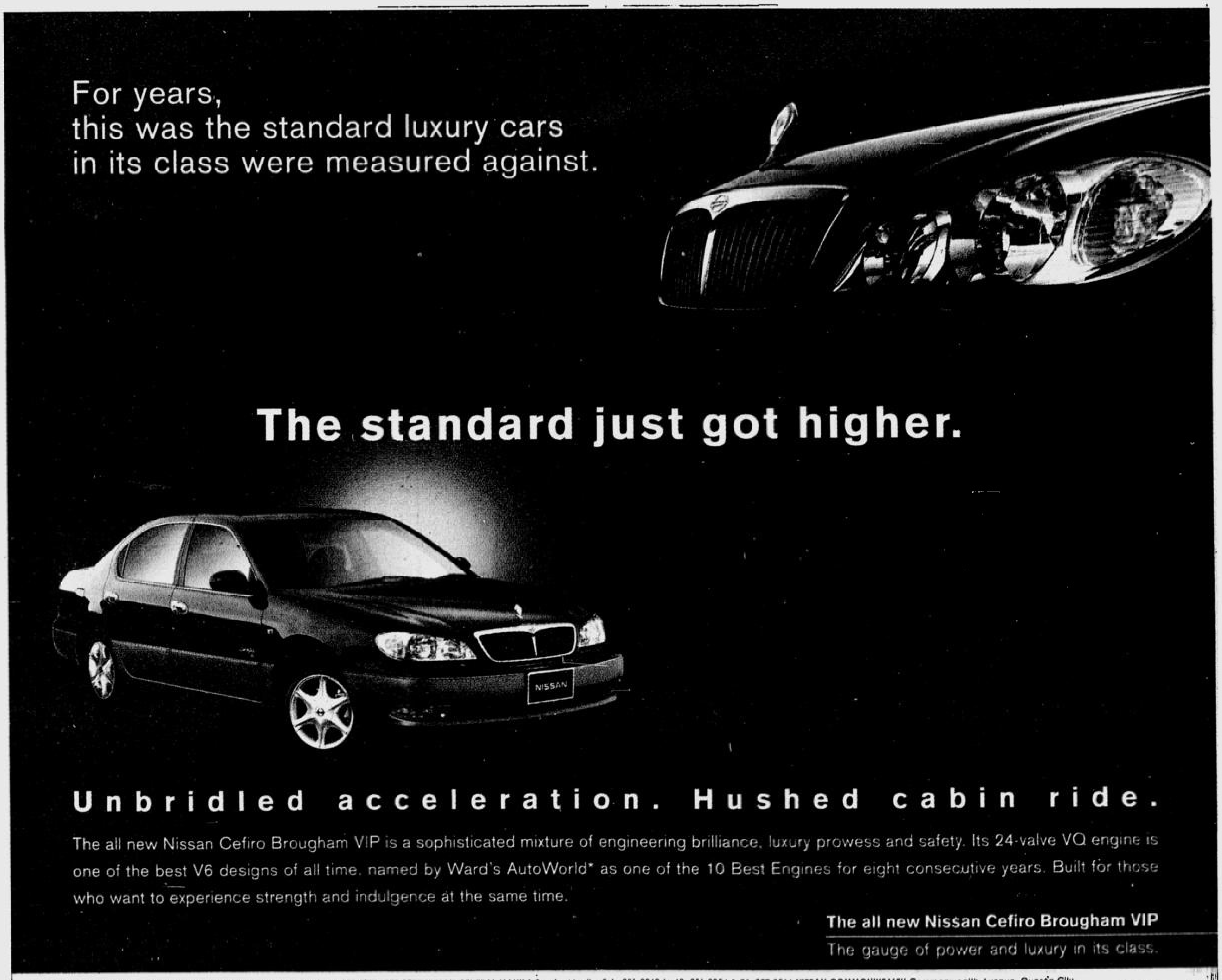
**Market slightly up**

SHARE prices ended fractionally higher yesterday amid thin volumes as investors stayed on the sidelines, dealers said.

"There's no volume in the market because the regional markets are not performing well," said Henry Ong of KGI Securities.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 0.11 points to close at 1,214.26.

Volume rose to 117 million shares but value fell to P176 million compared to 106 million shares worth P365 million traded on Friday. *AFP*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# PSE defends move to shuffle managers

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange said yesterday that an overhaul of its management team was necessary for it to strengthen its operations under a demutualized setup.

Reacting to an INQUIRER story about an ongoing management revamp, PSE corporate secretary Francisco Villaroman stressed that no one had been asked to step down from office, not even bourse senior vice president and chief operating officer Jose Cervantes.

"Even the Australian Stock Exchange has recommended the reorganization of the PSE," Villaroman said.

The Australian bourse is helping the PSE implement reforms related to the demutualization process sanctioned by the Securities Regulation Code, which took effect on Aug. 8, 2000.

Last year, the stock exchange shed off its mutual status by converting into a stock corporation. To date, however, it had yet to dilute the shareholdings of its 184 member brokers.

"This (reorganization) has no relation to the (former PSE president) RTG's (Ramon Garcia's) case," Villaroman said.

"The discussion to hire new executives were made in a planning session in Tagaytay Highlands on May 18, so even if the timing was wrong, management had never made any decision to fire anyone. Members of all the departments were present, so it was all transparent," he explained.

The reorganization strategy, including Cervantes' transfer to a lower position was announced last week, one week after the Pasig regional trial court dismissed a petition that sought to nullify the election of PSE nonbroker directors who were instrumental in the election of stockbroker Vivian Yuchengco as PSE chair.

"Cervantes' unit, the automated trading group, will be collapsed. Information technology will be headed by a CTO (chief technology officer). Other units of the ATG will go to other groups, like settlements, etc.," Villaroman said.

Bourse insiders said earlier that PSE president Ernest Leung informed Cervantes only last week that the board wanted to transfer him to the legal department. Leung, however, was said to have disapproved of the transfer.

Cervantes has reportedly been kept out of the loop in most of the PSE's affairs. He was not invited during the last board meeting on Wednesday, according to sources.

Persons familiar with the matter said while Cervantes was being asked to "transfer" to the legal department following Eala's resignation, the PSE had already decided to get a new counsel—Zaber Protacio of the Ongkiko law firm.

Cervantes' transfer not only amounts to a demotion but also a redundancy, according to sources.

"If people have resigned, that's due to the lack of progress within PSE management," Villaroman said.

At least three other top PSE officials, meanwhile, have already given up their posts. They are chief counsel Dennis Eala, listing department head Tina Panganiban and administration head Digna de los Reyes.

# Equitable plans thrift banks sale

EQUITABLE PCI Bank Inc., the country's third largest lender, said yesterday that it was studying a plan to sell its savings and thrift bank units as one of the options to boost its capital base.

Equitable, with a market capitalization of P25.7 billion, said in a disclosure to the stock exchange that other options included raising tier 2 capital by issuing quasi-equity debt instruments.

"Consolidation of its various retail banking activities and sale of its thrift bank/s are alternative options that Equitable PCI Bank is considering," the bank said in a response to a stock exchange query about a report that Equitable was selling two of its three thrift bank arms.

"The final decision on the matter hinges on which alternative will optimize shareholder value."

# SM says no plan to run hotel-casino

THE SM group of companies clarified yesterday that it had no intention to operate a casino at the Clark special economic zone.

In a statement, it said, "neither Mr. (Henry) Sy nor any company in his group has any intention of operating a casino."

The group said its discussions with Clark Development Corp. "are primarily on the terms and conditions for the lease and development of a commercial mall and the possibility of constructing a hotel-casino structure."

## DISCLOSURES

**A.BROWN Co. Inc.** has bought 150,000 of its own shares at 44 centavos each.

* * *

**LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc.** has bought 83,400 of its own shares at P33.50 each.

* * *

**GRAND Plaza Hotel Corp.** has approved the execution of its agreement with **New Hong Kong Golden Pavilion Restaurant Inc.** for the lease of Heritage Hotel Manila's ground floor.

* * *

**BOULEVARD Holdings Inc.** has denied having any information that may explain the unusual movement in the trading of its shares. ***Compiled by Maricar Tolosa, PDI Research***

## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Monday, June 24, 2002)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| **BANKS** | | | | | |
| Banco De Oro Univ. Bank | 19.75 | 19.75 | 18.75 | 19.25 | 519,000 |
| Banco Filipino Sav & Mort | 97 | 100 | 97 | 100 | 700 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 50 | 50.5 | 50 | 50.5 | 52,800 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 14.25 | 14.25 | 14.25 | 14.25 | 2,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 35 | 35.5 | 34.5 | 35.5 | 156,400 |
| First E-Bank Corp. | 1.66 | 1.66 | 1.66 | 1.66 | 5,000 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 35 | 36.5 | 35 | 35.5 | 301,800 |
| Rizal Comm. Banking Corp. | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 3,100 |
| Union Bank of The Phil. | 22.5 | 22.5 | 22.5 | 22.5 | 25,500 |
| **FINANCIAL SERVICE** | | | | | |
| Bankard Inc. | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 15,000 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 1355 | 1355 | 1355 | 1355 | 1,420 |
| Sun Life Financial Serv. | 1075 | 1080 | 1075 | 1075 | 530 |
| **COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL** | | | | | |
| **COMMUNICATION** | | | | | |
| Digital Telecom Phils Inc. | 0.76 | 0.76 | 0.75 | 0.75 | 990,000 |
| Globe Telecom, Inc. | 625 | 625 | 605 | 605 | 13,790 |
| Island Info And Tech Inc. | 0.035 | 0.035 | 0.035 | 0.035 | 500,000 |
| Piltel | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 350,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 390 | 392.5 | 390 | 390 | 52,630 |
| Ivantage Corp. | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 60,000 |
| Philweb.Com Inc. | 0.015 | 0.015 | 0.013 | 0.014 | 19,500,000 |
| **POWER & ENERGY** | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 21.5 | 21.75 | 21.5 | 21.5 | 3,900 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 33.5 | 33.5 | 33 | 33.5 | 380,200 |
| Petron Corp. | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 2,592,000 |
| Salcon Power Corp. | 1.66 | 1.68 | 1.66 | 1.66 | 249,000 |
| Trans-Asia Oil and Energy | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 40,000 |
| **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Asian Terminals Inc. | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 95,000 |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 2.36 | 2.5 | 2.36 | 2.4 | 1,227,000 |
| Keppel Phils. Marine Inc. | 0.37 | 0.37 | 0.37 | 0.37 | 20,000 |
| William, Gothong & Aboitiz | 2.26 | 2.26 | 2.26 | 2.26 | 2,000 |
| **CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS** | | | | | |
| Republic Glass Hldg. Corp. | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 43,000 |
| Union Cement Corp. | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 170,000 |
| **FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 13.5 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 197,600 |
| La Tondena Distillers Inc. | 33.5 | 33.5 | 33 | 33.5 | 7,500 |
| RFM Corp. | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1.04 | 64,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 47.5 | 48 | 47.5 | 48 | 23,300 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 55.5 | 55.5 | 54.5 | 55 | 152,900 |
| **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| Ayala Corp. | 5.2 | 5.3 | 5.1 | 5.2 | 587,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 2.34 | 2.34 | 2.34 | 2.34 | 396,000 |
| Ajo.Net Holdings Inc. | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 20,000 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 20,000 |
| Balabac Resources & Hldgs | 0.12 | 0.13 | 0.12 | 0.13 | 150,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 0.44 | 0.45 | 0.44 | 0.44 | 2,910,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 200,000 |
| Ebecom Holdings Inc. | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 1,000 |
| Filinvest Dev. Corp. | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 2,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp. | 22.25 | 22.25 | 22.25 | 22.25 | 67,900 |
| Ionics Inc. | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 17,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 0.74 | 0.74 | 0.73 | 0.74 | 1,390,000 |
| Multitech Inv. Corp. | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 200,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 4,410,000 |
| Music Corp. | 0.22 | 0.23 | 0.22 | 0.22 | 670,000 |
| Roxas Holdings Inc. | 0.65 | 0.65 | 0.65 | 0.65 | 3,300,000 |
| Unioil Res. & Holdings Co. | 0.032 | 0.032 | 0.032 | 0.032 | 300,000 |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc. | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 50,000 |
| **MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING** | | | | | |
| Mabuhay Vinyl Corp. | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 20,000 |
| Picop Resources Inc. | 0.0525 | 0.0525 | 0.0525 | 0.0525 | 600,000 |
| Pryce Corp. | 0.075 | 0.075 | 0.075 | 0.075 | 7,500,000 |
| SPI Technologies Inc. | 8.3 | 8.3 | 8.1 | 8.1 | 35,000 |
| **HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE** | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 310,000 |
| Fairmont Holdings, Inc. | 0.46 | 0.46 | 0.46 | 0.46 | 100,000 |
| Leisure & Resorts Corp. | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.25 | 0.26 | 850,000 |
| Manila Jockey Club | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 3,000 |
| Mondragon Intl Phils Inc. | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 150,000 |
| **BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr) | 25 | 25 | 24.75 | 25 | 1,101,300 |
| Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr) | 745 | 745 | 730 | 735 | 2,270 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series V | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 1,200 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series W | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10.25 | 1,700 |
| **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 5.6 | 5.7 | 5.6 | 5.7 | 1,643,000 |
| Araneta Properties Inc. | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 0.21 | 50,000 |
| Cebu Holdings Inc. | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 150,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 250,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 2.38 | 2.4 | 2.36 | 2.36 | 2,387,000 |
| City & Land Developers | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 21,000 |
| Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 130,000 |
| Robinsons Land Corp. | 1.78 | 1.78 | 1.78 | 1.78 | 50,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 5.4 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 5.5 | 4,034,000 |
| **MINING** | | | | | |
| Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc. | 0.033 | 0.033 | 0.033 | 0.033 | 1,800,000 |
| Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A | 0.205 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 400,000 |
| Omico Corp. | 0.0032 | 0.0032 | 0.003 | 0.003 | 14,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 100,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 30,000 |
| **OIL** | | | | | |
| Imperial Res. | 0.014 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 1,100,000 |
| Interport Res. | 0.0032 | 0.0032 | 0.0032 | 0.0032 | 3,000,000 |
| Interport Res. B | 0.0032 | 0.0032 | 0.0032 | 0.0032 | 2,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.0032 | 0.0032 | 0.003 | 0.003 | 26,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. B | 0.0032 | 0.0032 | 0.0032 | 0.0032 | 6,000,000 |
| South China Resources Inc. | 0.4 | 0.42 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 120,000 |

| | SHARES | VALUE (P) |
|---|---|---|
| Banks & Fin Svc | 1,083,250 | 32,268,550.00 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 52,253,690 | 108,807,170.00 |
| PRO | 8,715,000 | 37,441,140.00 |
| Mining | 16,330,000 | 219,300.00 |
| OIL | 38,220,000 | 177,800.00 |
| GRAND TOTALS : | 116,601,940 | 178,913,960.00 |

| AVERAGES | | |
|---|---|---|
| Banks & Fin Svc | 492.46 | UP 1.36 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 1,685.52 | DOWN 12.29 |
| PRO | 516.44 | UP 10.23 |
| Mining | 1,276.29 | UP 3.34 |
| OIL | 1.24 | DOWN 0.12 |
| All Shares Index | 708.26 | DOWN 12.92 |
| Composite | 1,214.26 | UP 0.11 |

NO. OF ADVANCES: 10; NO. OF DECLINES: 42; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 34 NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 86 NO. OF TRADES: 1,105

## CURRENCIES

June 21, 2002

| Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Foreign currency in US$ | Foreign currency in Peso |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 1.034875 | 1.000000 | 50.2050 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.008393 | 0.008110 | 0.4072 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.552002 | 1.499700 | 75.2924 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.132678 | 0.128207 | 6.4366 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.680079 | 0.657160 | 32.9927 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.677496 | 0.654664 | 32.8674 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.582045 | 0.562430 | 28.2368 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.591019 | 0.571102 | 28.6722 |
| Bahrain | Dinar | 2.745173 | 2.652661 | 133.1768 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.275944 | 0.266645 | 13.3869 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.580412 | 0.560852 | 28.1576 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000121 | 0.000117 | 0.0059 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.024623 | 0.023793 | 1.1945 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.281775 | 0.272279 | 13.6698 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000856 | 0.000827 | 0.0415 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 0.966300 | 48.5131 |
| Argentina | Peso | 0.289072 | 0.279330 | 14.0238 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.375499 | 0.376285 | 18.8914 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134574 | 0.130039 | 6.5286 |
| India | Rupee | 0.021189 | 0.020475 | 1.0279 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.272372 | 0.263193 | 13.2136 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.104427 | 0.100908 | 5.0661 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.507915 | 0.490798 | 24.6405 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.135544 | 0.130976 | 6.5757 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.017276 | 0.016694 | 0.8381 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.099989 | 0.096619 | 4.8508 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.110448 | 0.106726 | 5.3582 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.020133 | 0.019455 | 0.9767 |
| Taiwan | NT Dollar | 0.030663 | 0.029630 | 1.4876 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000796 | 0.000769 | 0.0386 |

COUNTRY SHARES
As of June 25, 2002

| | BUYING | SELLING |
|---|---|---|
| ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B* | 1.7M * | 1,600,000 |
| BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB | 700,000 | 740,000 |
| CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B* | 80,000 | 95,000/105,000 * |
| CAMP JOHN HAY | 290,000 | 300,000 |
| CANLUBANG | 500,000 | - |
| CAPITOL HILLS | - | 115,000 |
| CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB | 180,000 | 190,000 |
| CLUB FILIPINO | - | 180,000 |
| EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C** | 620,000 ** | 350,000/450,000*/900,000 ** |
| EVERCREST A/B* | 135,000 * | 100,000 |
| FONTANA D/C*/B** | - | 90,000/150,000*/280,000 ** |
| FOREST HILLS A/C** | 210,000/250,000 ** | 230,000/290,000 ** |
| MAKATI SPORTS A/B* | 250,000/260,000 * | 270,000/280,000 * |
| MANILA POLO CLUB | - | 2,800,000 |
| MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B* | 630,000 | 650,000/750,000 * |
| METROPOLITAN A/B* | - | 120,000/125,000 * |
| MIMOSA IND./C2*/C3** | 120,000/200,000*/275,000 ** | 155,000/225,000*/300,000 ** |
| MT. MALARAYAT A/C* | - | 350,000/625,000 * |
| ORCHARD A/B*/C** | 200,000/320,000 | 230,000/350,000*/425,000 ** |
| PUERTO AZUL | 100,000 | 125,000 |
| QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB | 200,000 | 220,000 |
| RIVIERA A/B* | | 195,000/430,000 * |
| ROCKWELL CLUB | | 450,000 |
| ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*/C** | | 90,000/150,000*/180,000 ** |
| SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C** | | 115,000/250,000*/380,000 ** |
| STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB A/B* | | 1.75M |
| SUBIC BAY IND/CORP.* | 290,000 * | 200,000/300,000 * |
| TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS CC/GOLF* | 425,000/950,000 * | 900,000 * |
| TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS | 780,000 | 800,000 |
| VALLE VERDE IND. | 150,000 | 170,000 |
| VALLEY GOLF | 240,000 | |

Available Lessors for Playing Rights: Alabang, Calatagan, Camp John Hay, Canlubang, Canyon Woods, The Country Club (Free) Celebrity, Eagleridge, Eastridge, Forest Hills, Makati Sports, Malarayat, Orchard, Riviera, Sta. Elena, Southwoods (Free), Tagaytay H-lands & Midlands, Valley Golf, Wack Wack, Rockwell & Others
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GOLFERS CLUB SHARES, INC.
SEC LICENSE # A 1998-2129
AS OF JUNE 24, 2002

| | SELLING | BUYING |
|---|---|---|
| 1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A" | 1,850,000 | |
| 2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B" | 1,700,000 | |
| 3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB | 750,000 | 700,000 |
| 4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A" | 100,000 | 80,000 |
| 5. CAMP JOHN HAY | 300,000 | 250,000 |
| 6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB | 600,000 | 550,000 |
| 7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB | 120,000 | |
| 8. CELEBRITY CLUB | 190,000 | 175,000 |
| 9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS | | 370,000 |
| 10. CLUB FILIPINO | 210,000 | 190,000 |
| 11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A" | 200,000 | |
| 12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A" | 350,000 | 330,000 |
| 13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A" | 100,000 | |
| 14. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A" | 220,000 | 200,000 |
| 15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B" | 280,000 | |
| 16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C" | 500,000 | |
| 17. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A" | | 250,000 |
| 18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B" | 280,000 | 260,000 |
| 19. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.) | | 10,500,000 |
| 20. MANILA POLO CLUB | | 2,800,000 |
| 21. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A" | 650,000 | 620,000 |
| 22. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B" | 750,000 | 700,000 |
| 23. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A" | 100,000 | 80,000 |
| 24. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B" | 150,000 | |
| 25. MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.) | 350,000 | |
| 26. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A" | 220,000 | 200,000 |
| 27. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B" | 250,000 | |
| 28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C" | 370,000 | 300,000 |
| 29. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB | 230,000 | 210,000 |
| 30. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A" | 200,000 | |
| 31. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B" | 250,000 | 210,000 |
| 32. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A" | 1,800,000 | |
| 33. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND) | 250,000 | |
| 34. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB | 800,000 | |
| 35. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND | | 750,000 |
| 36. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB | 170,000 | 250,000 |
| 37. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB | 300,000 | 240,000 |
| 38. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB | | 6,500,000 |

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PAUL CORTEZ
PRESIDENT
LALA SALAO / LYDIA HASEGAWA
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7517982 CP#0917-8114892

ANG TAN GOLF, CLUB & SHARES, INC.
268 Kalentong Street, Mandaluyong City
SEC. Licensed Broker 10573

| | |
|---|---|
| **SELLING** | |
| Alabang A/B | 1,600,000/1,700,000 |
| Baguio Country Club | 730,000 |
| Camp John Hay Golf | 280,000 |
| Canlubang Golf | 600,000 |
| Canyon Woods | 170,000 |
| Celebrity | Please call |
| EagleRidge "A"/"B"/"C" | 340,000/450,000/520,000 |
| Forest Hill "A"/"B"/"C" | 220,000/250,000/210,000 |
| Manila Golf (Corp.) | 12,980,000 |
| Manila Southwoods "A"/"B" | 620,000/740,000 |
| Makati Sports "A" | 250,000 |
| Metropolitan "A" | 100,000 |
| Mt. Malarayat "A"/"C" | 350,000/450,000 |
| Orchard "A"/"B" | 205,000/250,000 |
| Philippine Columbian | 70,000 |
| Puerto Azul | 100,000 |
| Punta Fuego Club | 530,000 |
| Quezon City Sports "A"/"B" | 210,000 |
| Riviera "A" | 180,000 |
| Rockwell Club | 380,000 |
| Royale Tagaytay "A"/"B" | 80,000 |
| Sta. Elena "A" | 1,680,000 |
| Sherwood | 100,000 |
| Subic Bay Yacht (Indv./Corp.) | 170,000/330,000 |
| Tagaytay Highland Golf | 900,000 |
| Tagaytay Midlands | 780,000 |
| **BUYING** | |
| Baguio Country Club | 720,000 |
| Canlubang Golf | 550,000 |
| Capitol Hills | 110,000 |
| Club Filipino | 190,000 |
| CC at Tagaytay Highland | 420,000 |
| Forest Hill "A"/"B"/"C" | 210,000/210,000/220,000 |
| Manila Golf (Indv.) | 11,000,000 |
| Manila Polo | 2,600,000 |
| Makati Sports "A" | 250,000 |
| Orchard "A"/"C" | 200,000/340,000 |
| Quezon City Sports "A"/"B" | 210,000 |
| Tagaytay Highland Club | 420,000 |
| Tagaytay Highland Golf | 680,000 |
| Tagaytay Midlands | 780,000 |
| Valle Verde CC (Indv./Corp.) | 165,000/250,000 |
| Valley Golf | 250,000 |
| Wack Wack | 7,100,000 |

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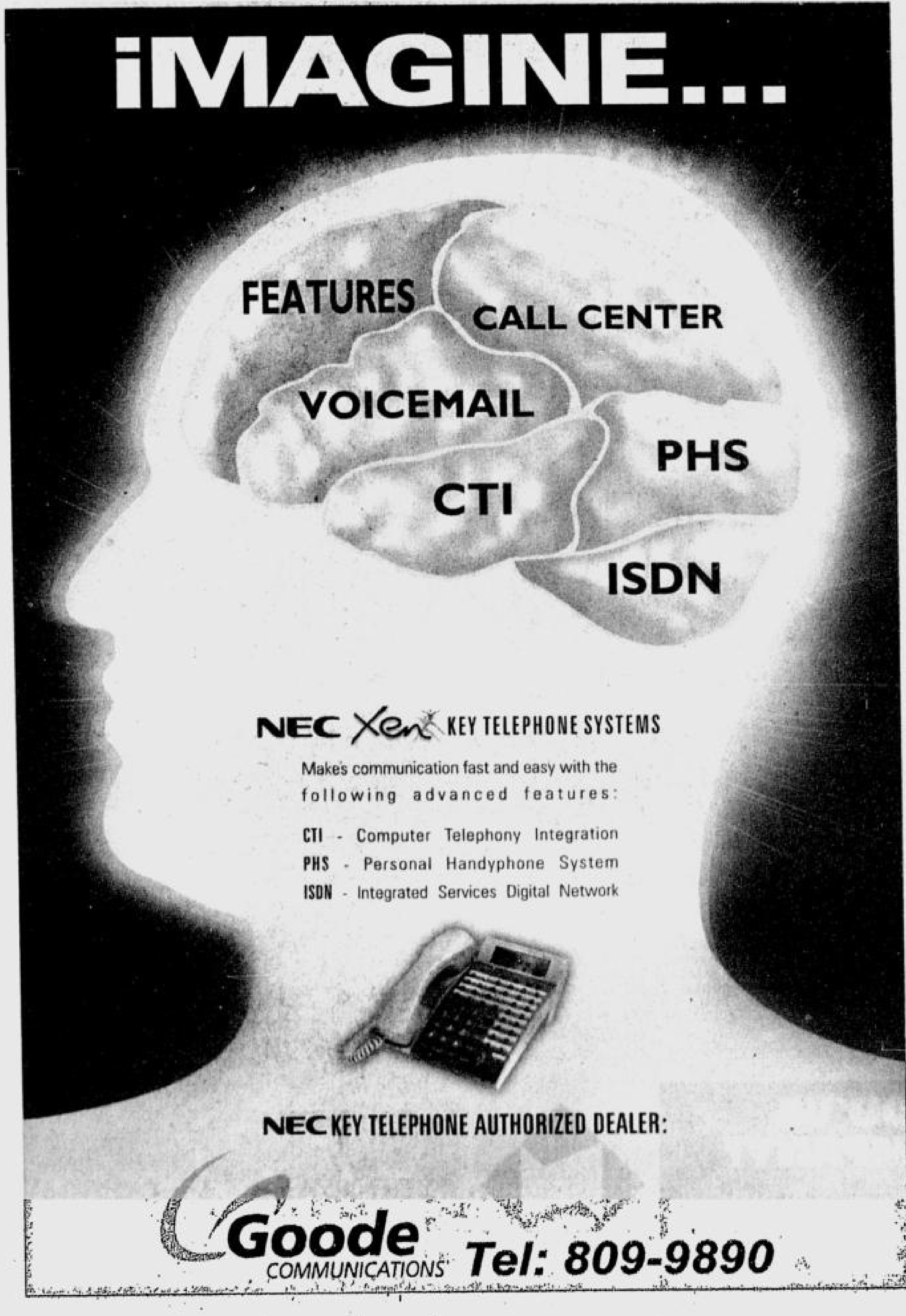

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**E-READINESS PUSHED**

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II (left) converses with Rene Valencia (right), chair of the E-government committee of the joint private and public sector Information Technology and E-Commerce Council, during rites commemorating the second year anniversary of Bayan Trade.com. Roxas revealed initial findings of the Gartner Group, an e-readiness rating agency, that ranked the Philippines highly as an e-services hub.

# PNB asks shareholders to approve rehab plan

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE National Bank will submit today for shareholders' approval its new board lineup, the reduction in the company's par value from P60 to P40 per share and the agreement signed by the government and Lucio Tan last May 3 to jointly rehabilitate the bank.

Of the 11 members of the board, the government will field six representatives while Tan and four others will represent his group.

PNB will also inform its shareholders of the creation of a four-member board of advisers that will provide the expertise in facilitating the rehabilitation of the country's sixth largest bank.

A ranking PNB official named the following as the government's representatives to the board: PNB chair Francisco Dizon, bank president Lorenzo Tan, Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. president Norberto Nazareno, former Finance Undersecretary Flor Tarriela, banker Vicente Panlilio and Alejandro Roces, former chair of the Movie Television Review and Classification Board.

Roces, a new name in the list, will replace sugar baron Franklin Fuentebella who was appointed as one of the two government representatives to the board of advisers together with retired justice Jose Melo.

Tan's allies in the board include his brother-in-law Macario Te, trusted lieutenant Domingo Chua, former PNB president Feliciano Miranda Jr. and Washington Sycip.

Former PNB directors Enrique Filamor and Cielo Macapagal-Salgado will join the board of advisers as Tan's representatives.

Dizon defended the creation of the board of advisers amid criticisms that it was just another layer for political accommodations.

"It is not another layer. The members of the board of advisers are expected to provide advice on their areas of expertise," said Dizon. Of the board of advisers, only Filamor is known to have an extensive financial background.

The bank will ask its shareholders in a meeting today to ratify the agreement signed by the government and Tan last May 3 in relation to the P25-billion debt of PNB to the government.

# DoF seen reviving plan to tax 'texting'

From page B1

Suarez's bill provided for the imposition of the tax for 15 years while that of Villar wanted the tax imposed only for five years.

Last year, Globe Telecom posted a net profit of P4.3 billion out of consolidated revenues of P35.8 billion. Smart, a subsidiary of PLDT, registered net earnings of P3.9 billion while its parent firm posted net profits of P3.4 billion out of consolidated revenues of P73.5 billion.

"The government is trying to work out a system wherein the phone companies will not need to pass on the additional cost to consumers," said a finance official.

Globe and Smart currently charge between P1 and P2.50 for every text message sent. The number of text messages reach between 120 million and 150 million daily from more than 12 million mobile phone subscribers in the country.

# PAL eyes domestic flights in US

TUMON, Guam—National flag carrier Philippine Airlines, bullish after reopening its service to Guam, called on the United States government to live up to its words on air liberalization by opening up the US domestic market to PAL flights.

"If the US is adamant about open skies then we will insist on open skies in the real sense of term," PAL president Avelino L. Zapanta told a news conference here hours after the first PAL flight in nearly a decade landed in this US Pacific territory.

"Open Skies" means a policy of unrestricted air carriage between and among markets. It is championed by Washington but is opposed by virtually all aviation nations.

"Right now, the playing field is lopsided in favor of giant American carriers. They receive $15 billion in direct state aid and $32 million in insurance cover and are being shielded by their government. What does the Philippine aviation industry get? Nothing."

To balance the scale, Zapanta urged Washington to allow foreign carriers like PAL to operate between US points in the same manner that the US insistently demands free access to the Philippine market.

"Everything must be reciprocal. If we must go into open skies, everybody—including the big and powerful—should open their markets. It can't be just the small nations like us."

Despite the inherent handicaps, Zapanta said PAL would take on the US mega-carriers on their own turf, if Washington allows it.

"We are confident we can fight it out in their market," he said citing PAL's intention to start flights from Guam to Honolulu and the West Coast if US authorities give the green light.

# Plastic industry opposes doubling of duties on resins

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

LOCAL plastic manufacturers are asking the Tariff Commission to thumb down a petition by three petrochemical manufacturers—JG Petrochemical, Petrochemical Corp. of Asia and Pacific (Petrocorp.) and Bataan Polyethylene—to double the duties on resins to 30 percent and keep the tariff shield up to 2010.

In a statement, Philippine Plastic Industry Association executive secretary Alfred Chan warned that the "overprotection" of the petrochemical companies would create a cartel and that would be detrimental to Filipino consumers.

"A 30-percent duty on resins will make the downstream plastic industry a captive market of the petrochemical firms because it will deprive plastic product manufacturers an alternative source of raw materials and render the market non-contestable," Chan said.

Aside from market control, the PPIA also aired their concern on the ripple effect of high resin duties on prices of commodities and food products in view of the broad use of plastics from industrial goods to consumer products and packaging for food products. "In effect, consumers would be subsidizing the operations of petrochemical firms," Chan said.

The Tariff Commission is scheduled to hold a hearing today on the petition by petrochemical manufacturers to increase duties on resin from 15 percent to 30 percent. Duties on resins—the main output of the upstream petrochemical firms and the basic input of the downstream plastic manufacturers—are set to fall to between zero and 5 percent next year under the Asean Free Trade Area.

Petrochemical manufacturers claimed that they need the tariff protection beyond 2003 to ensure sufficient local demand from midstream industries once the naphtha cracker they are planning to build is in operation.

Chan chided the petrochemical manufacturers for their unquenchable need for protection even though the government has already cut duties on their raw materials from 3 percent to zero percent and their projects have been lavished with fiscal perks.

"If petrochemical firms cannot be competitive despite all the tariff protection and BOI incentives, they don't have the right to stay in business," Chan said.

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# IS Manila – where your child comes first

FINDING the right educational philosophy for your child is one of a parent's main concerns. It is never too early to begin the search for the right school. A pre-school environment that will bring out the best in your child and foster your child's development is what you will be looking for.

IS Manila, a college-preparatory school with an American-based curriculum, has opened its Pre-School to accept both 3 and 4-year old children. IS Manila's Early Primary Program is an integrated approach to learning based on the principles of a child's physical, social, personal and mental development. The learning environment fosters a developmentally appropriate approach in the promotion of creative and cognitive learning, independence in and the love of learning, the awareness of responsibility together with dealing with risk taking, trust learning and the development of self-esteem in expanding social dimensions.

Highly skilled and professionally competent teachers use training methods to develop, extend and lead the children's thoughts towards understanding based on science and reasoning. Teaching skills motivate students and impetus for active learning. The use of play in art, design and science has proven to be the most effective learning method at this developmental stage in a child's growth. A child is challenged when incongruity is introduced in play thereby helping the child recognize what does not fit, and activating a desire to discover why it does not fit. IS Manila offers a balanced education wherein a child's natural curiosity is developed and a need to satisfy that curiosity leads to a love of learning.

IS Manila's Early Primary Program is a high-quality program that incorporates differentiation in teaching and learning. IS Manila begins with the premise that all children have a great capacity to learn. Kids are not pushed to learn. They are switched on. At IS Manila, we identify how. Teachers are trained to recognize and adjust to the child's learning style, then to balance this and bring about the child's flexibility to acknowledge and accept different teaching and learning styles, eventually to lead the child to develop his ability to manage his own learning.

The diversity in the cultures represented in the School's student population gives the pre-schoolers the added advantage of early exposure and ease in cooperative learning and living in a multinational environment. Class sizes are limited to 15 to promote effective and personalized learning and guidance.

Introductory fees make this a very special offer that is affordable. Give your child the best. For more information about how IS Manila cares for your child, call Celine Evans, admissions director, 897-5576, admissions@ismanila.com or visit www.ismanila.com/admin/index.htm.

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**SGV & CO, E&Y SIGN AGREEMENT**

SyCip, Gorres, Velayo and Company and Ernst & Young International have signed a definitive agreement that makes permanent SGV's affiliation with the Ernst & Young network. SGV chair and managing partner Cesar V. Purisima and E&Y global CEO William L. Kimsey expressed jointly their satisfaction at the conclusion of their agreement. Purisima said 'SGV and E&Y have a culture and values that match. Its combination will strengthen SGV's services to all our clients in the Philippines.' Kimsey added he was 'extremely delighted with SGV becoming an affiliate, and I admire the team for its very high quality standards, SGV met all the global standards we set.' SGV is the first and only ISO 9002-certified auditing firm in the Philippines. Shown (from left) are SGV vice chair David L. Balangue, Kimsey, Purisima and E&Y deputy global partner for markets James Holstein during signing ceremonies held at SGV.

**MISYS-IBS SOLUTION**

Leading solutions provider to the banking industry Misys International Banking Systems (Misys-IBS) launched recently the Release 5 of Risk Vision, a fresh approach to the concept of risk management. Risk Vision Release 5 is an integrated enterprise management system that provides a modular solution for market, credit and liquidity risk management. Shown is K.K. Grover (third from left), Misys-IBS president, acknowledging Nestor Espenilla (second from left), managing director of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. Beside them are Jo-anne Shun, product and marketing director of Misys risk management group, and Neil Sandery, Misys development general manager for risk management group in Asia Pacific.

# Mag-Nestle Almusal sticker promo launched

NESTLE Philippines announces the launch of *Mag-Nestle Almusal... Sticker Panalo!*, a promo activity giving away a total of P1 million pesos in support of the food company's Breakfast Campaign, an initiative which aims to underscore the importance and value of breakfast, especially among parents and young working professionals.

*Mag-Nestle Alumsal... Sticker Panalo!* Covers Metro Manila, Cavite, Rizal and Balagtas, Bulacan. The promo is open to all vehicle drivers willing to place a *Mag-Nestle Almusal* sticker on visible parts of their vehicle.

On June 26 and 29, a *Mag-Nestle Almusal* Roving Team will spot 30 winners of P10,000, 10 winners of P20,000, and three winners of P100,000.

*Mag-Nestle Almusal* stickers will be distributed in participating Shell Select outlets, mall parking lots, subdivisions and FX, jeepney, tricycle and taxicab terminals.

So what can a *Mag-Nestle Almusal* sticker do? It can make you thousands of pesos richer. Promo ends on June 29. For further details, visit the *Mag-Nestle Almusal* website at www.nestle.com.ph/almusal

# Basic course on fund raising slated July 16 to 19

VENTURE for Fund Raising, a non-profit organization providing consulting, public information, research and training assistance on fund raising to non-profit organizations, will conduct its 23rd Basic course on Fund Raising from July 16 to 19 at the Mapua Information Technology Center (MITC), old RCBC Building, Reposo Street, corner Buendia Avenue, Makati City.

The Basic Course of Fund Raising teaches its participants the importance of strategic fund raising within their organizations and provides them with the principles, skills and tools needed to do this successfully. It represents the first phase of Venture for Fund Raising's four-step Financial Sustainability Program, which also includes board development and orientation, financial sustainability planning, and financial sustainability implementation.

For more information on Venture for Fund Raising's Basic Course on Fund Raising, or other programs and services, call 634-8889 to 90, fax 637-3545, or e-mail rica@venture-asia.org.

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**UNISYS SPONSORS MAP INT'L CEO CONFAB**

Unisys Philippines recently inked an agreement with the Management Association of the Philippines to sponsor the MAP International CEO Conference billed 'Defining the New Asian Corporation: Its Leadership, Character, and Passion' on June 19 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Co-presented by BayanTrade, the conference will feature Harvard Business School professor and best-selling author of 'The Balanced Scorecard' Robert S. Kaplan, and a host of top foreign and local executives. Approximately 250 MAP members and other senior executives representing the Philippines' top corporations are expected to attend the conference. Unisys is a worldwide information technology services and solutions company offering a rich portfolio of business solutions in consulting and systems integration, outsourcing, network services and security. Strategic marketing and communications consultancy firm TeamAsia is the official organizer of the event. Shown are (from left) Arnold Salvador, MAP executive director, Gabriel Leiva, Unisys Philippines and Thailand general manager, Edward Fereira, MAP governor and chair of the organizing conference committee, Ging Lantin, Unisys Philippines marketing officer, and Alvie Cabato, TeamAsia program manager.

# *Unilever introduces new Rexona roll-on design*

UNILEVER Philippines has introduced the New Rexona Easy Swipe Roll-on, a revolutionary product designed especially for the roll-on user. The company is the first in Asia to come up with this novel design.

The New Rexona Easy Swipe Roll-on is ergonomically designed for better grip during application. It has a 50-percent bigger roll-on ball for wider coverage, with only one swipe, it covers underarm areas without overlaps.

Its new package design has a modern appeal, starting with its attractive colors and unique shape, down to its lightweight plastic container. The New Rexona Easy Swipe Roll-on is also built with the tip at an angle, again for easier application. It's also refillable, just like other Rexona products.

The latest Rexona product also contains the same fast-drying formulation that offers protection from sweat and body odor. It also has deosteral max, the patented active ingredient that stops and kills germs and provides 24-hour protection.

Available in six variants – Active, Ice Cool and Sport for men and Confidence, Floral Blossom and Cotton Fresh for women – the new Rexona Easy Swipe Roll-on doesn't just mask odor but eliminates odor-causing germs, leaving you smelling fresh all day.

The New Rexona Easy Swipe Roll-on is now available in leading supermarkets and department stores nationwide. Rexona is the No. 1 deodorant in the Philippines and in the world.

**TPG-PRO ZINERGY ANNIVERSARY**

TPG-Pro Zinergy, the first and largest pre-need cooperative marketing system (CMS) in the country, celebrated its first anniversary at the Manila Midtown Hotel in an awards dinner attended by 2,000 current and prospective CMS marketers. Over 100 certificates and trophies were awarded, including the CMS marketers of the year, as shown. From left are TPG president and CEO Francisco J. Colayco, CMS marketers of the year Jaime V. Poliquit and Estrella M. Arboleda and Pro Zinergy head Zigfredo C. Morales. TPG-Pro Zinergy is a division of TPG Corp., the first pre-need pension plan company in the country. For inquiries, call 747-6272 and 533-7061 local 8030.

**LABOR SECRETARY DIALOGUES WITH CFBC**

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas has suspended the implementation of the issuance of employment permits to resident foreign nationals after a recent dialogue with the officers of the Chinese Filipino Business Club (CFBC). The CFBC officers, led by president Aw Peng Lam (second from right), discuss with Sto. Tomas and Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson (third from left) the possible lifting of this rule. Other CFBC officers present were (from left) vice president Siy Yap Chua, executive vice president lawyer Daniel Laogan and vice president Rufino Kopio. Having heard their side, Sto. Tomas issued a memorandum suspending the Alien Employment Permit until further notice.

## Product FILES

### Get tangled with Epson's Web of Colors

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EPSON, your friendly neighborhood printer and leader in printer technology, lets you unleash that Peter Parker in you. Weave your way into the Spider-Mania with Epson's Web of Colors and get free Spider-Man premium items. Simply purchase any participating inkjet printers from any authorized Epson dealer outlet nationwide and get a limited edition Spider-Man backpack or cap. Grab a cool Spider-Man cap when you buy an Epson Stylus C20sx and get a Spider-Man backpack when you purchase an Epson Stylus C50 or C60. The promo runs until July 5.

**CLASS '52 HOMECOMING**

The high school class '52 of Maryknoll Academy, Lucena City, recently celebrated its 50th anniversary homecoming with a thanksgiving Mass and motorcade around the city. Shown are the graduates of the class from here and abroad visiting their Alma Mater during the whole day affair.

# Courting NTT support, PLDT vows reforms

**By Doris C. Dumlao and Abigail L. Ho**

THE PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. has reportedly pledged to institute reforms and democratize its decision-making process in line with its bid to secure the support of its second-biggest shareholder to thwart efforts by tycoon John Gokongwei Jr. to take over the company.

Persons familiar with the matter said PLDT chief executive Manuel Pangilinan, despite reporting "positive and productive" talks with Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Co., had yet to convince the Japanese telecom giant to back his bid against the Gokongwei group.

On Friday, Pangilinan said his talks with key shareholder NTT were fruitful.

The PLDT board also issued a statement saying NTT was supporting its handling of the affair involving the Gokongwei group's bid to acquire a controlling stake in PLDT.

Pangilinan is believed to be seeking NTT's support to block a bid from Gokongwei, who controls one of the country's biggest food and beverage conglomerates, to acquire a controlling interest in PLDT, the country's largest phone company, from Hong Kong conglomerate First Pacific Co. Ltd.

NTT holds a 15-percent stake in PLDT and two board seats and is considered the pivotal player in the struggle as it has the right of first refusal should First Pacific sell its holdings.

Gokongwei and First Pacific have agreed to form a joint venture that will hold the Hong Kong firm's 24.47-percent stake in PLDT—the single biggest—and the 50.4-percent stake of its Philippine unit, Metro Pacific Corp., in Bonifacio Land Corp.

The Gokongweis will pay the cash-hungry First Pacific over $600 million for a two-thirds stake in the joint venture.

The PLDT board, including Pangilinan, opposes the deal, saying it will be detrimental to the company's finances and to shareholder value, prompting talk of a management-led buy-out.

Sources close to the Pangilinan camp said the PLDT chief had informed his top managers that NTT would soon declare its support behind their efforts to foil a Gokongwei takeover.

There were, however, some tradeoffs, according to these sources, as NTT was said to be demanding "radical" reforms in the way PLDT was being managed, but that Pangilinan was confident PLDT's "key" management team would be retained, and that the Gokongwei deal would be aborted.

Sources close to PLDT told the INQUIRER that NTT had asked Pangilinan's group to "address the situation" and implement a "more consultative process" within the company.

Pangilinan was said to have agreed to implement a more democratic consultation process and allow greater involvement of other shareholders in lieu of an "autocratic" system in PLDT.

The PLDT chief also reportedly agreed to observe more financial prudence and focus on reforms cognizant of the "growing competitive nature of global environment."

NTT was reported earlier to be evaluating the likelihood of taking in the Gokongweis as a partner in PLDT.

A source close to the Gokongwei camp said NTT was assessing the "technical and management expertise of the Gokongweis in running a telecommunications company, considering they have no track record in this field."

Apart from evaluating the Gokongwei group's capability in managing a telecom firm, NTT was also said to be examining the Gokongwei group's record in corporate governance, treatment of minority shareholders, as well as its public image.

Stockbrokerage Philippine Equity Partners Inc. said, meanwhile, that First Pacific would have to work overtime to make sure that the Gokongwei group would be able to hurdle three roadblocks to its bid to acquire a controlling stake in PLDT.

In a report issued on June 14, PEP, formerly Merrill Lynch Securities Philippines Inc., said the Gokongwei group would have to conduct a due diligence, secure the consent of regulators and the PLDT board, and convince NTT to waive its right of first refusal.

# RCBC proposes use of PEACe bonds to clean banks' foreclosed assets

**By Elena R. Torrijos**

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. is planning to use as much as P35 billion worth of the controversial Poverty Eradication and Alleviation Certificates—or PEACe—bonds to take out the foreclosed or acquired assets of other banks.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is said to be amenable to this plan.

Under RCBC's proposal, buyers may use the 10-year PEACe bonds to acquire the foreclosed or acquired assets of other banks.

A bank that accepts these bonds as payment will not have to book a loss because—if the central bank agrees—it can record the receipts based on the bonds' face value instead of their present or discounted value.

The bank, however, will not be allowed to book an income from these bonds.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said based on RCBC's initial presentation, regulators approved the plan in principle.

Ultimately, though, approval will depend on the terms to be used to purchase the real and other property owned or acquired—or Ropoa—of banks.

Reyes said banks should obtain reasonable terms in exchange for the Ropoa to be taken off their books.

"That's better than the subordinated debt to be issued by asset management companies," Reyes said.

"If AMCs will buy NPLs (nonperforming loans), the payment will be part in cash and part in subordinated debt, but in this case, the banks will be paid with treasury bills that are zero-coupon. These are even risk-free because they are guaranteed by the government," he added.

A buyer of a 10-year zero coupon bond from RCBC amounting to P1 billion based on face value, for instance, will only have to shell out P500 million, a discount of the face value depending on comparable prevailing interest rates.

The bond may then be used to buy an acquired asset of another bank, with the buyer not having to shell out the entire amount.

Also, even though the amount of P500 million is less than the book value of the asset being acquired, the seller-bank will not have to recognize a loss unless the asset's book value is more than P1 billion, the bond's face value.

The Senate investigated the PEACe bonds following allegations that Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho had a hand in it.

The idea to float 10-year zero-coupon bonds came from the Caucus for the Development of NGO Networks, an umbrella organization of non-government organizations headed by Camacho's sister.

There were allegations that Code-NGO used its supposed connection with Camacho to chalk up an income of P1.3 billion from the purchase and subsequent sale of P35 billion worth of PEACe bonds to RCBC in October last year.

# DTI tosses Honda CR-V classification row to BIR

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry—overseer of the country's vehicle industry development program—is washing its hands off the brewing controversy over the tax-free status of the Honda CR-V.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said while the Board of Investments, an attached agency of the trade department, approved the Honda CR-V's shift in product registration from sport utility vehicle to Asian utility vehicle, its tax exemption perk was granted by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Roxas said it was well within the jurisdiction of the Department of Finance to revoke the tax exemption on the Honda CR-V because it did not comply with the 10-seater rule.

But he noted that this would not affect the model's AUV status with the BOI.

Roxas stressed that the BOI approved the CR-V's change in registration into an AUV because it complied with the agency's 40-percent local content requirement.

Unlike most sport utilities, the CR-V is assembled from completely knocked down kits by Honda Cars Philippines Inc.

Honda has committed to invest in its transmission production facility in Laguna for its CR-V.

The DOF and BIR recently conducted a re-measurement of the CR-V's specifications to determine whether it fully complied with the 10-seater requirement.

BIR rules exempt all vehicles that can seat 10 passengers or more from the excise tax.

The INQUIRER reported that the DOF-BIR found that the new CR-V could not seat 10 passengers.

# Amcham bucks BSP rules letting banks sell insurance

**By Clarissa S. Batino**

THE AMERICAN Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines is objecting to the strict policies on cross-selling or "bancassurance" that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is planning to impose soon.

The central bank said last week that it would allow only commercial lenders to sell within their branches the financial products of their subsidiaries or companies where they had at least a 51-percent stake. These products include insurance plans, trust funds and mutual funds.

The circular that the Monetary Board plans to issue has yet to be approved, but the terms are generally acceptable to its members, according to a BSP official.

"Bancassurance," a new financial trend in foreign markets, combines banking and insurance in a business that lets banks sell insurance products within their premises.

The Amcham warned that should the BSP's policy-making Monetary Board approve the new regulation, it would create an uneven field and limit bancassurance to two local banks—the Bank of the Philippine Islands, which merged with Ayala Life Insurance; and Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., which had a tie-up with AXA Life.

The group is voicing the concerns of one of its biggest members—the American Insurance Group, which owns Philippine American Life & General Insurance Co. Insurance.

# Treasury to cut borrowings

THE BUREAU of Treasury has said the government will reduce its borrowings from the local market in the fourth quarter given the successful issuance of retail treasury bonds that have raised between P25 billion and P30 billion in state revenues.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said in an interview that the government was planning to cancel the auction of treasury bonds for the whole of December.

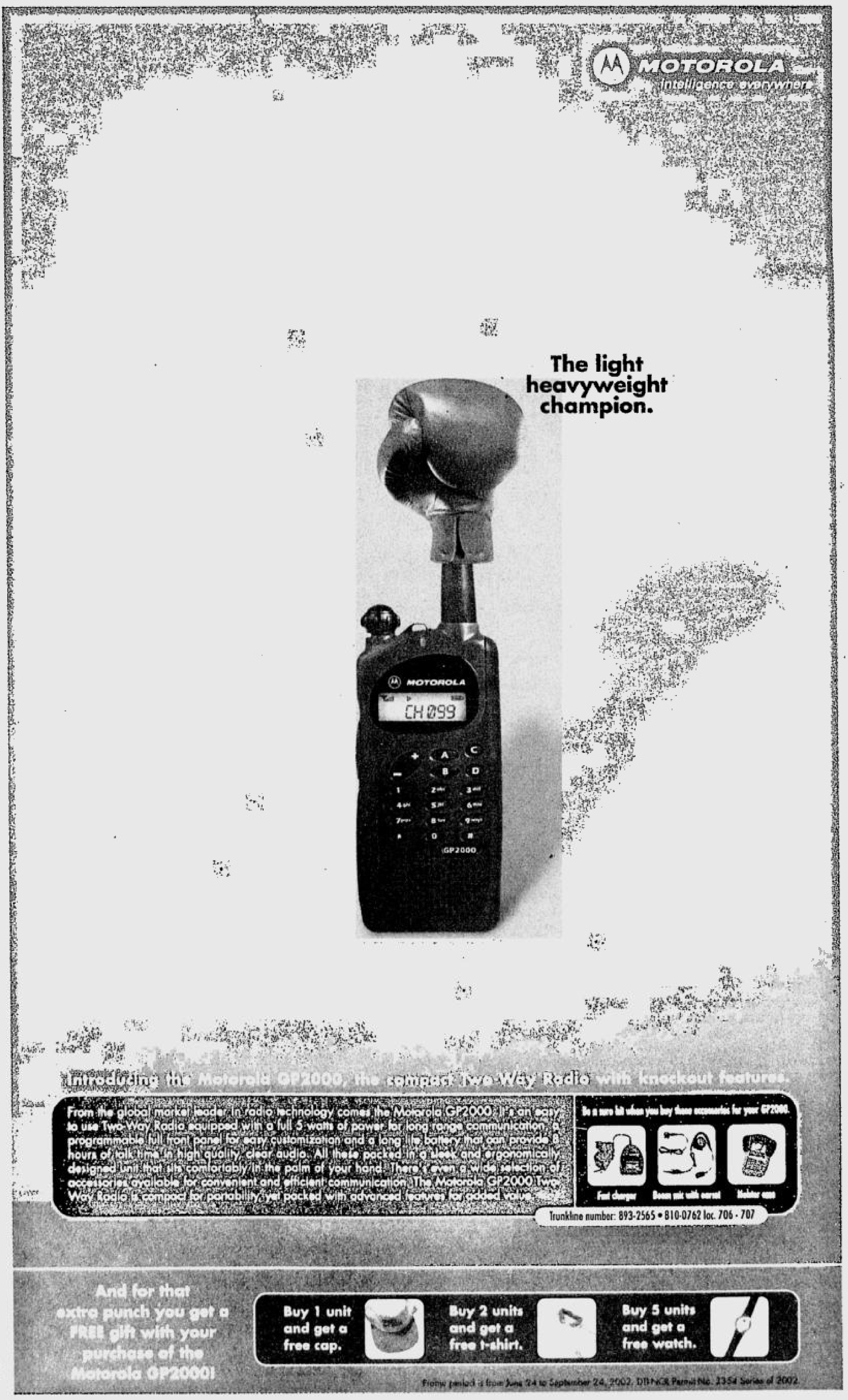
This alone, he said, would reduce the size of state borrowings by about P9 billion corresponding to the auction of two-, three- and four-year notes worth P3 billion each.

"The government is looking to cancel the bond auction in December. This is in view of the successful issuance of RTBs (retail treasury bonds), which could give us between P25 billion and P30 billion in proceeds," Edeza said.

He said the government wanted to limit the retail bond size to P8 billion, but it was compelled to accept the money of small investors who wanted to place their funds in risk-free government debt papers.

Investors with at least P5,000 could buy any of the three-, four- or five-year bonds issued by the government and underwritten by state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines together with the Development Bank of the Philippines, BPI Capital Corp., Equitable PCI Capital Inc., Banco de Oro Universal Bank and First Metro Investments Inc.

Edeza said proceeds from the retail treasury bonds would replace a substantial portion of the local borrowings set for the second half.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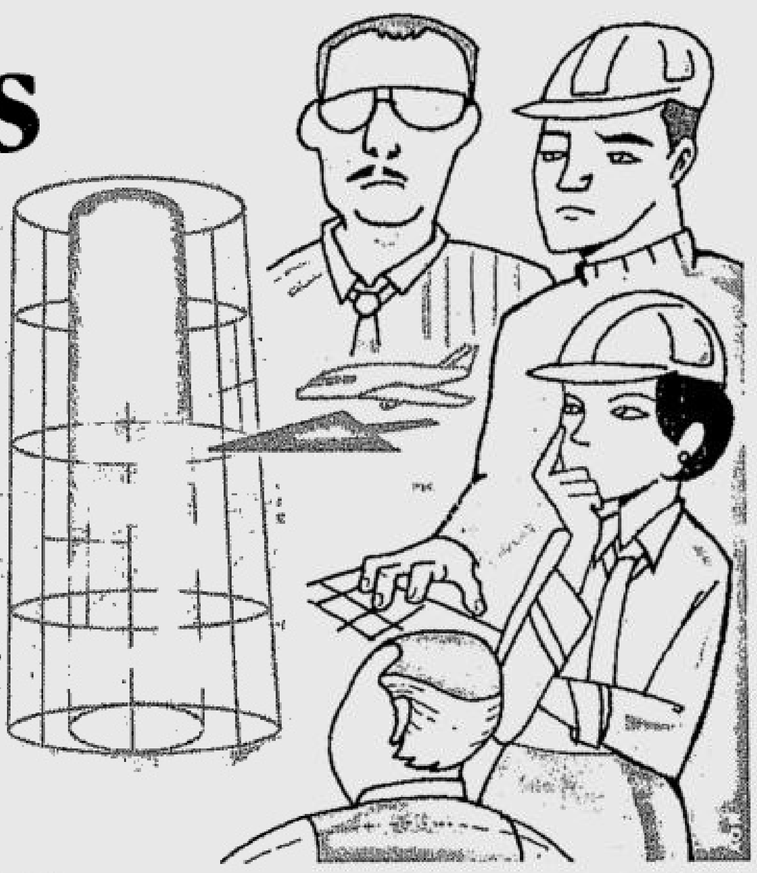
# REALESTATE

*Editor* Cesar D. Mangawang

# Designing buildings that could outsmart terrorists

By Tessa R. Salazar



**SOPHISTICATED buildings would no longer just mean cyber buildings. It may not just mean being earthquake-proof and esthetically pleasing as well.**

After the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City on Sept. 11, 2001, and in view of the continuing terrorist threats worldwide, the latest technology and sophisticated building security has been paid much closer attention on a global scale.

The best building engineers and architects are trying to find ways to outsmart terrorists and build stronger, safer skyscrapers.

In the Philippines, engineers, real estate developers and architects recently attended a world building conference to hear from building experts what materials would be safe for skyscrapers and the possibility of "intelligent buildings" with refined security.

## Safe haven

Many engineers now endorse a skyscraper blueprint that features a concrete core that runs down the center of the building. Popular Science magazine described the core as the building's spine, supporting its weight as well as being a safe haven within which designers could place emergency escape routes, fireproof elevators and stairwells. The magazine also said that fireproof and blast-proof elevator shafts were nothing new, but because of the Sept. 11 event, these old technologies received renewed attention.

Popular Science also featured mechanized ventilation systems within buildings that blow the smoke out during fire. In China, such areas of the building that house ventilation systems are called "areas of refuge." These ventilation systems are connected to pressurized stairwells.

A device called the laser spectrometer, meanwhile, can detect explosive chemicals or poison gas within a mile of a building, and alert security forces assigned to the establishment and give time for people to evacuate. The spectrometer could be mounted on the outside wall of the building.

## Enhanced building security

After a survey of major corporate occupiers in Hong Kong, Singapore and Sydney, Jones Lang LaSalle revealed that focus would be on enhanced building security with a more widespread use of sophisticated technology.

Craig Plumb, Jones Lang LaSalle director and head for real estate intelligence service, cited video conferencing, greater sensitivity to the identity of neighbors in shared premises and greater attention to disaster recovery planning as some of the more specific measures these occupiers would like to conduct.

Building security measures include restrictions on entry and movement within the buildings, greater access to air conditioning systems, and mailroom security.

Plumb said some immediate measures have now been relaxed but occupiers remain more concerned with security issues.

Plumb stressed the importance of backup facilities that include secure data storage in the event of a disaster. He said that there has also been a shift toward multi-site rather than single-site real estate strategies.

"While major corporates do not regard terrorist attacks as a major negative for CBD locations, and few cited this as a reason for decentralizing, there has been an increased concern with the identity of neighbors and a greater preference for single occupier premises, particularly for Australia," he said.

He also stressed the development of a technology that would mean not only video conferencing but also the separation of air-conditioning systems, evacuation access and the ability of premises to incorporate the latest security technologies.

## Good facility manager

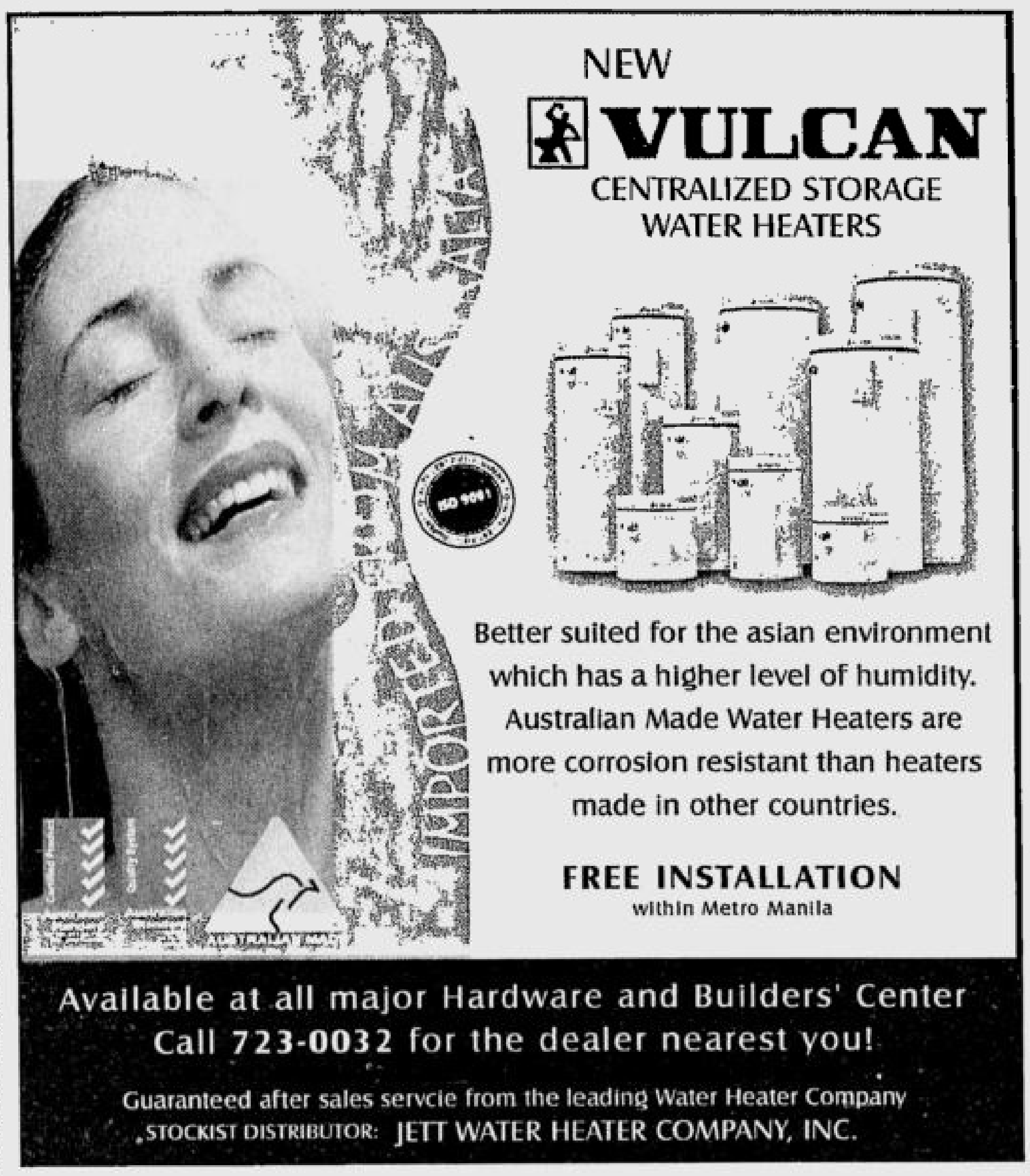
Meanwhile, SouthEast Asia Facility Management stressed in its recent report that natural disasters, terrorist attacks, fires, floods and even simple power outages were inevitable. It would be impossible to create a facility that is entirely disaster-proof.

A good facility manager is the key, it said. A checklist of all systems and furnishings within the building should be set up in advance. It advised that building administrators do not have to wait for a disaster to employ facility managers.

Abby de Lotto, a senior consultant with Strohl Systems who has had extensive crisis planning experience, said a good facility manager understands proper documentation and prior relationships with local authorities and contractors can be of great help to an organization after a disaster.

It wouldn't be a good idea, she said, to be introduced to the local fire chief in the middle of a crisis.

"Cultivating relationships ahead of time, facility managers can dissipate a lot of the confusion and remove the ambiguity generally associated with the first few hours and days following a disaster," she said.



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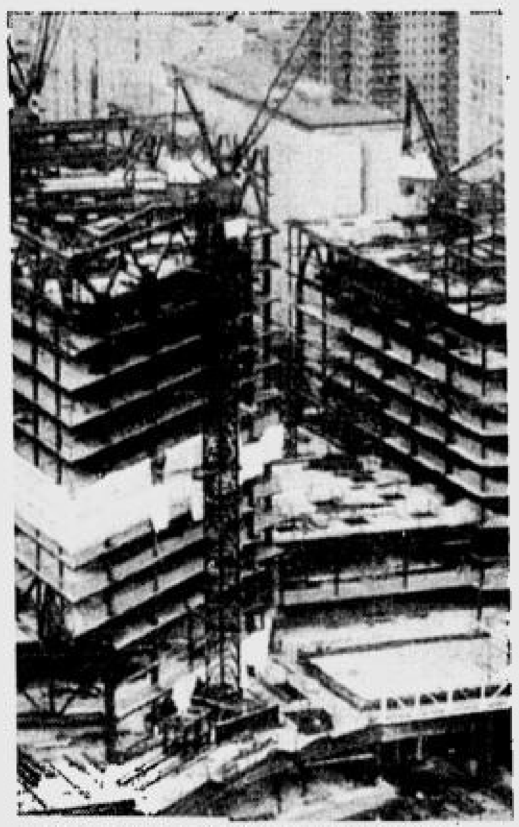
JERRY Namero, center, answers queries from investors during the formal launch of One Central Park Condominium last week at the Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City. He is flanked by Ken Strum and Nona Sarangaya Lopez, both executives of Impact International Ltd.



COMPLETION of the whole AOL Time Warner Center is expected by 2003.

# US broker selling New York condo units to Filipinos

By Charles E. Buban

WHAT could be the most coveted property at the heart of New York City is now being offered to Filipinos by a US-based real estate broker. The landmark project is the luxury residential component of the AOL Time Warner Center, a $1.7-billion project occupying 1.37 hectares of land in one of the largest cities in the world.

Located at the former site of the New York Coliseum, the One Central Park Condominiums lies at the convergence of Central Park West, Central Park South, Broadway, Columbus Circle, West 58th, 59th and 60th Streets—giving its residents commanding views of Central Park, the Hudson River and the Manhattan Skyline.

Jerry Namero, senior partner of Impact International, formally introduced the property to select Filipino guests at the Shangri-La Makati Hotel last week.

Said Namero: "We are offering our Filipino friends a rare chance to be one of the 191 privileged owners who will enjoy access to services, amenities and luxury that is without parallel anywhere in the world. It's definitely a 5-star living right in New York City's premier district."

All condominium units are expected for completion by the third quarter of 2003.

## Historical homage

AOL Time Warner Center including the condominiums is designed by internationally renowned architect David Childs, chair of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, one of the leading architecture, urban design and planning, engineering and interior architecture firms in the United States.

Childs created a design that pays homage to the great prewar residential buildings on Central Park West—the Century, the Majestic, the San Remo and the El Dorado.

The Center seamlessly integrates the exclusive One Central Park Condominiums, the luxurious 251-room Mandarin Oriental Hotel, world-class shopping and fine-dining shops at the Palladium retail complex, including restaurants by legendary Jean Georges Vongerichten and Thomas Keller, Jass at Lincoln Center, and the new global headquarters of AOL Time Warner.

Rising majestically above The Center are the 191 condominium units built on the 52nd floor to the 80th floor of the two 80-story crystalline towers. A unit fetches a price of as low as $1.9 million to as high as $10 million.

"The property market in New York is up and buyers of the condominium could easily double their money on the investment by 2004, a year after the construction shall have been completed," Namero assured.

## Uniquely positioned

The condominiums are uniquely positioned to capture unbounded light and spectacular views of Central Park, the Hudson River and the Manhattan skyline. As its name implies, it is situated on the very threshold of Central Park.

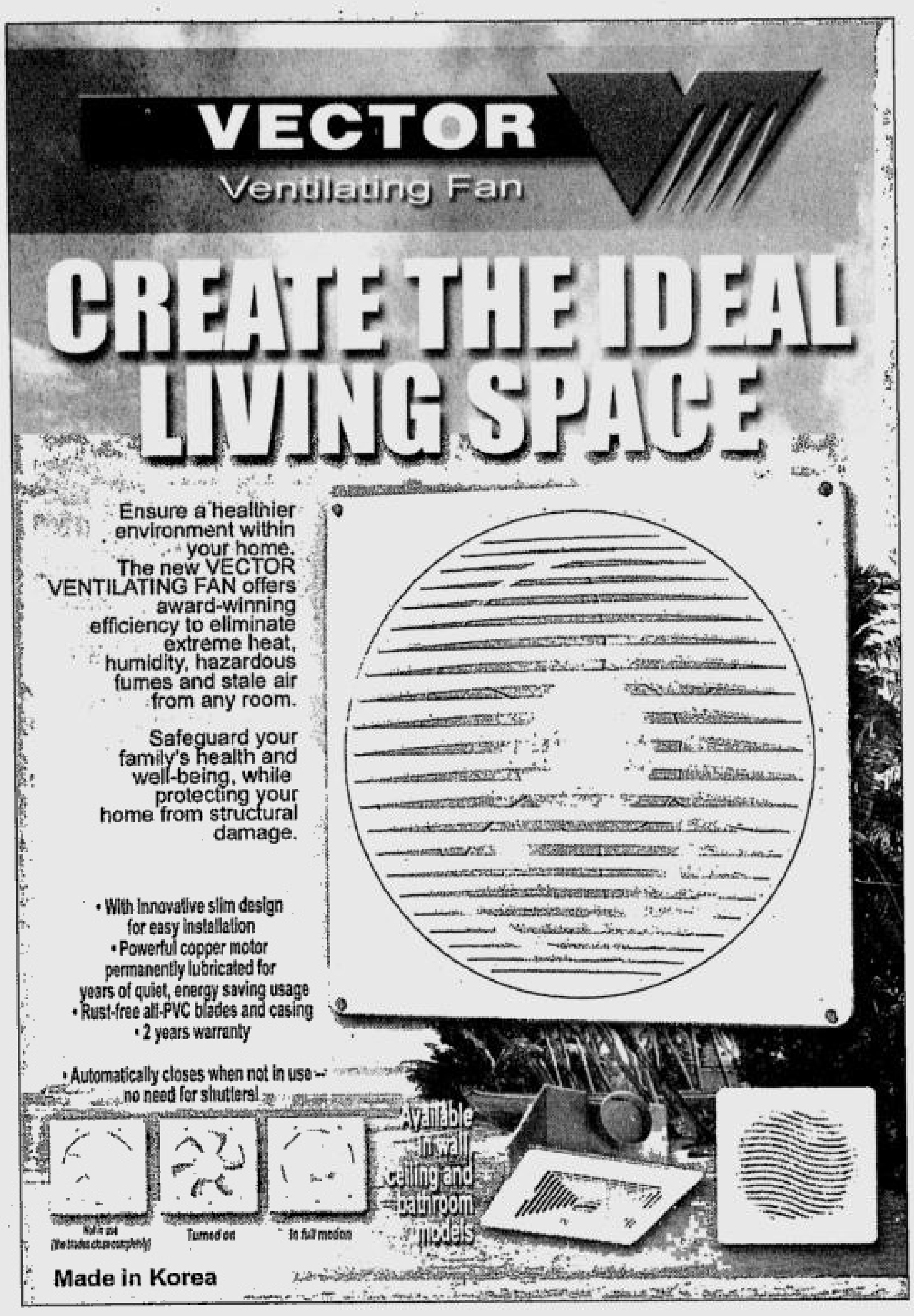
Five full floor penthouses crown each tower of One Central Park. These spectacular penthouse residences of approximately 780.386 square meters in area start at the 76th floor and rise to the 80th floor, offering the most commanding views of any residence overlooking Central Park. Residence units of two to four bedrooms begin on the 52nd floor to the 80th floor with areas ranging from 119.195 sq. m to 364.18 sq. m.

Residents may enjoy the services of Mandarin Oriental Hotel, including an Asian-inspired spa, a 75-foot glass-enclosed swimming pool, world-class cuisine and truly remarkable concierge service. "If you want to be pampered, then this is the place where you want to be," Namero said.

Residents of the condominiums can also avail of the following amenities:

- Park View entertainment suite
- Fully equipped health and wellness center
- Landscaped rooftop garden terrace
- Private screening and media room
- Fine dining from the center's 5-star restau-

REALTY /B8



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BUY PINOY

# Best time to buy a home

OPPORTUNITIES for would-be homeowners have never been better. Banks today are outdoing each other in offering the lowest interest rates on housing loans. For their part, real estate developers have come up with a variety of products as well as financing schemes designed to answer the widest range of buyer needs.

Observes Angela dV. Lacson, president of Community Innovations Inc., the Ayala Land subsidiary catering to young urban achievers: "Potential homeowners haven't had it this good in a long time. While many of them understandably express reservations about making the big leap to invest in a home, they nevertheless are taking the plunge because of favorable industry conditions and the upbeat investment climate."

A case in point is the 25-hectare Verdana Homes in Southern Metro Manila, 10 minutes away from sister community Ayala Alabang. In less than two months, 90 percent of the lots ranging from 200 to 400 square meters were sold out. House-and-lot packages recently put on the market will most likely sell as briskly.

With house sizes ranging from 122 sq. m to 203 sq. m, the packages have been worked out so that monthly payments can be as low as P25,400. Community Innovations has also made arrangements with a number of banks for loans that go as low as 9 percent fixed for one year—a rate that has been unheard of in years.

Moreover, the company has made concessions on the completion of the down payment of the package, which accounts for 25-30 percent of the total investment. This can be paid over an 18-month period instead of all at one time in response to the needs of the market.

Verdana Homes schemes similarly address the desire of young professionals for great values. The house-and-lot packages that feature California-inspired architecture are all located around the park, the highest point of the upbeat community. Every Verdana home has a porch, balcony and garden areas that can eventually be used for expansion. "We've made sure there is room for the family to grow," says Lacson.

Verdana also offers choices in façades, exterior color scheme and interior finishings. Observes Edwin Yabut, who headed the design team: "Homeowners can personalize the homes to suit their needs."

Inside, every Verdana Home is laid out to maximize space, light and ventilation. On the ground floor, the living-dining area opens out to a garden. Downstairs and up, each room has two windows that make use of stylish aluminum frames.

Verdana Homes' less visible features, nevertheless, are what allow the homeowner best values. These include a European- designed building system that meets the highest building standards; German-made polypropelene water pipes that are not prone to leaks; and concrete roof tiles that do not readily absorb heat.

"We've also made sure that the entire community appreciates in value over time through the amenities we have put in," says Lacson. A series of gardens for meditation, kids play, jogging and basketball surround a clubhouse that can host community functions. Added amenities are a 25-meter lap pool and a kiddie pool for water sports.

Verdana Homes is also managed by Ayala Property Management Corp., which has built a track record maintaining highly valued Ayala Land communities in Makati, Alabang, Quezon City and Cebu. "We want to make the milestone of owning a home a truly meaningful and worthwhile experience," says Lacson.

> Interest rates haven't been this low in a long time; developers are coming up with the easiest financing and product schemes ever

TO. SIGURADO

**UNION CEMENT LAUNCHES MIX & FIX**
**Union Cement Corp. recently launched Mix & Fix, the country's first "instant" concrete and mortar mix. Mix & Fix Premixed Concrete simplifies the process of making structural concrete and can be used for building and repairing concrete structures by simply adding water. Mix & Fix Premixed Mortar achieves excellent adhesion, high workability and a smoother finish by just adding water. Program hosts Maureen Larrazabal, left, and Hans Montenegro, right, with UCC Business Division manager for Mix & Fix Ricky Bautista, senior executive vice president Dr. Francisco Viray, SVP for sales and marketing Francis Felizardo, are shown during the grand launch at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila's Grand Ballroom.**

# Construction in high gear for 2 Eastwood CyberPark Towers

PREMIER property developer Megaworld Corp. is fast-tracking the completion of two office buildings that will add close to 60,000 square meters to the existing office space inventory at Eastwood City CyberPark in Quezon City.

Already topped off and undergoing electro-mechanical and finishing works, the 30-story Cyber One and the 12-story Eastwood Corporate Plaza have reached more than 50 percent completion. Both buildings are due for occupancy by the third and fourth quarter of next year, respectively.

Once fully completed, Cyber One will feature fully redundant, fault-tolerant telecommunication facilities, a high-bandwidth cabling system, eight high-speed passenger elevators, multilevel basement parking and a centralized building management and security system. It will also host at its first three podium floors the country's first IT and electronics retail center called CyberMall, which will open by December of next year.

### Technologically responsive

As esthetically pleasing as it is technologically responsive, Cyber One features a reflective tempered glass curtain wall system and concrete spandrel for its façade. It boasts an average floor plate of 1,606 square meters, a column-free office interior to suit various office layouts and a generous floor-to-ceiling height to accommodate different types of servers and network systems.

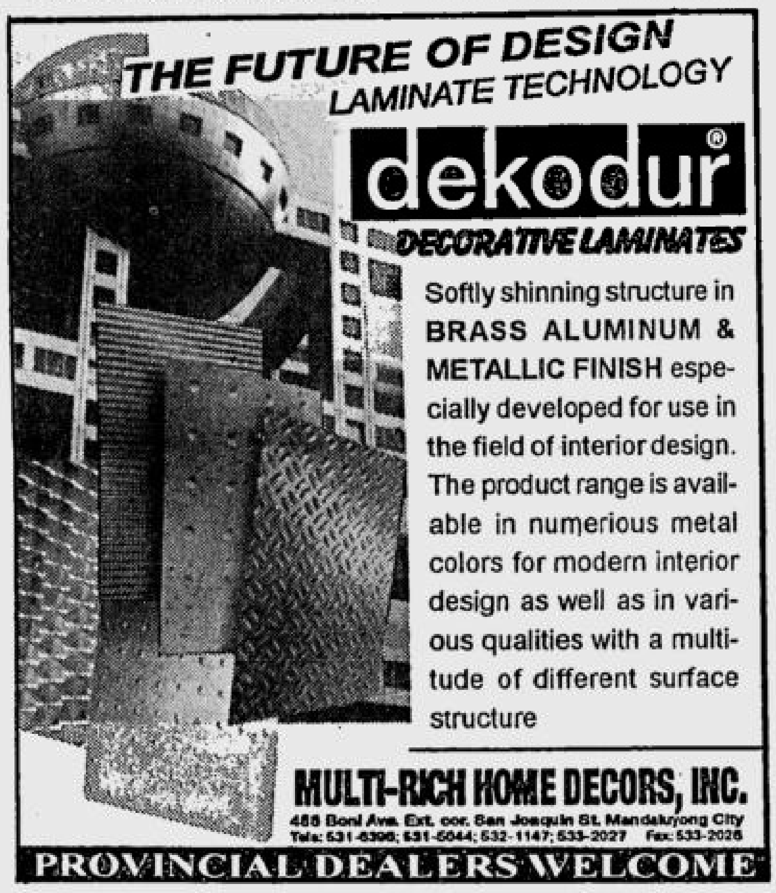
Its electro-mechanical utilities include a fire and smoke detection and automatic fire sprinkler system, standby emergency power generator, mechanical pressurization of stairs for smoke-free fire exit access, underground cistern and elevated water tank and a centralized air-conditioning system.

Eastwood Corporate Plaza, located between the IBM Plaza and Citibank Square towers, also features a glass curtain wall and boasts a multiple telecom carrier capability that will ensure efficient telecommunications services for the wired businesses on its floors. Carrying an average floor plate of 800 square meters, the mid-rise office tower offers multilevel podium parking, a back-up power system and centralized air-conditioning.

### Office spaces offered

Cyber One and Eastwood Corporate Plaza offer office spaces for sale or lease to local and global IT companies looking for a high-caliber business center that will meet their stringent office requirements.

About 32 percent of Cyber One has been taken up by a number of IT-intensive companies such as animation outfit TOEI Animation.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# Easy payment plan for your own condo

DREAMING of your own condominium unit but can't afford to pay the high monthly amortizations, outright down payment, etc? Well, think again cause your dream is just a call away with Keppel Philippines Properties' easy installment plan.

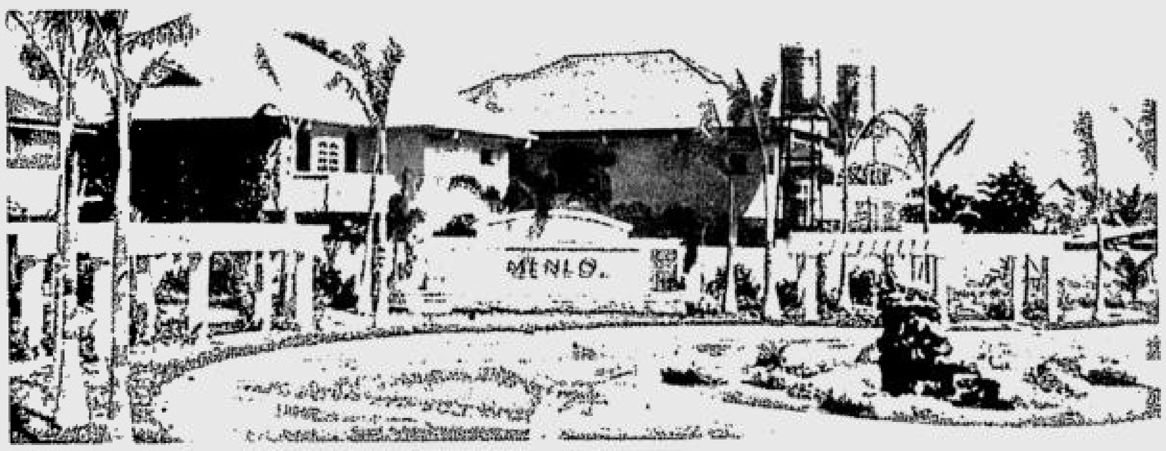
Conceptualized to cater to the growing demand of buyers for flexible payment terms, KPP's easy installment plan is cut for customers who wish to make Palmdale Heights their future haven.

Designed to be a self-contained residential community complete with modern amenities such as a clubhouse, swimming pools, playgrounds, basketball court and commercial establishments. Palmdale Heights is set to revolutionize the standards of residential-commercial condominium in the country.

With affordable outright prices ranging from P800,000 to P1.2 million per unit only, interested buyers can opt for the in-house easy installment plan with zero to 50 percent down payment, balance payable from 12 to 84 months. Another option is through bank financing with 20 to 30 percent down payment, balance payable from 5 to 25 years. This buyer-friendly program was made possible to suit your unique lifestyle and budget.

Located in the heart of Pasig, the project caters to newly wed couples, small families and young business executives. It is conveniently located right in the heart of Pasig City and is minutes away from Ortigas Center, Greenhills Commercial Center and Makati City.

Model unit of the project is available for viewing at the second level of Benguet Center on ADB Avenue in Mandaluyong or at the project site in Sandoval Avenue, Pasig City.



**THE MENLO Circle**

## MENLO PARK

# Where ideal living becomes real

MENLO Park is a 3.6-hectare master-planned residential enclave of single family homes with Southern California-type of architecture. When completed, it is envisioned to be the most ideal address south of the metropolis.

Menlo Park offers a sanctuary in the middle of the city. It features clubhouse with porte-cochere, pool and playground, rock cascade and water feature at Menlo Circle, gated perimeter wall with 24-hour security, ample water supply and pockets of open spaces.

What sets Menlo Park apart from other residential communities is that it speaks of flexibility. Its owner/developer, BF Citi offers homebuyers a choice. Thus, beyond the delightful façade of Menlo Park Homes, prospective homeowners are given the option to choose the interior they want. This allows each homeowner to put his personal stamp on the house. Being a developer with a vision, BF Citi considers the owner's need for individuality amid uniformity.

Nestled within the exclusive residential area of BF Homes, Parañaque, Menlo Park offers unique landscaped drives (Menlo Drive, Cypress Drive, Maple Drive, Banyan Drive and Cedar Drive) all ending up in cul-de-sacs or private courts. At Menlo Park, you can truly look forward to coming home every day. Indeed, Menlo Park is where ideal living is perfected.

# Seminars on investing in real estate

A SEMINAR on "What you need to learn before investing in real estate" will be conducted by the Urban Institute of Real Estate on July 6, from 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the second floor, Joni's Bakeshop, Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City.

The four-hour discussion and general introduction to all the basic knowledge that is essential to a profitable and successful real estate investment will include real estate economics, legal and contract documents, financing and analyzing investments, property appraisal, property development rules and regulations, property management, real estate taxation, Property Valuation and when and how to cash-in your investments.

Lecturer is Enrico S. Cruz, a civil engineer who has more than three decades of working experience in engineering, construction, real estate and education.

Last day for reservation is June 28. For particulars, call up Urban Institute at 681-0928 or e-mail urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

# Realty. . .

(From page B6)

rants

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- Direct elevator access to on-premise parking

"This property is definitely for the Filipinos who are not worried economically and judging from the outcome of the launch last week, I would say it was a successful one," said Namero citing at least a dozen affluent Filipinos who have expressed interest to buy. He wants Filipinos to have a first crack at the opportunity since he has many good things to say about this country and he had many great experiences in dealing with them.

Since 1983, Impact International has been selling New York properties to the Filipinos. Its management service is custom fitted to meet the specific needs of each individual client. Impact International has also been involved with other prestigious projects in New York including the 500 Park Avenue, Trump International Hotel and Tower, Central Park Place, CitySpire, Worldwide Plaza, The Colonnade and The Galleria.

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**MORE RETAIL SHOPS OPEN**
**San Francisco Gardens, the fully completed six-cluster residential development of popular housing developer Empire East Land Holdings Inc. on Boni Avenue in Mandaluyong City, recently welcomed two new additions to its retail area. TechCentral, an Internet and network gaming center, is now open for business while convenience store Basic Things is moving in soon.**

# Japan business sentiment still frail—survey

**MONEY** dealers trading under an electronic foreign exchange rate board which quoted "121.65 yen against the US dollar" during yesterday's morning session of the Tokyo foreign exchange market. The US dollar lost ground against other major currencies on concerns about the US economy and traded at 121.65 yen against 123.24-26 yen in Tokyo last Friday. AFP

TOKYO—The Bank of Japan's next "tankan" survey will show large firms feeling slightly better than in the previous quarter after a rebound in exports, but most are still frail and lack appetite for capital spending, economists said.

"The recovery in exports has been a big help, but large manufacturers will be the only ones seeing significant improvement. Smaller firms will see less of a change and the overall outlook is still very clouded," said Takeshi Minami, senior economist at UFJ Tsubasa Securities.

The quarterly index, due to be published on July 1 at 8:50 (2350 GMT Sunday), measures business sentiment by subtracting the percentage of companies reporting unfavorable business conditions from the number that say they are favorable.

A negative index means pessimists outnumber optimists.

A Reuters poll of 20 economists produced a median forecast of minus 26 for the June diffusion index for large manufacturers, an improvement of 12 points from minus 38 in the March survey.

Economists expected less improvement among other business sectors, and the median forecast for large non-manufacturers was minus 20, compared with minus 22 in the March survey.

The median forecast for smaller manufacturers was minus 47, up slightly from minus 51. The median forecast for smaller non-manufacturers was minus 41 compared with minus 42 in the previous quarter.

Last week, the Finance Ministry announced the trade surplus grew for a third straight month in May to 619.2 billion yen ($5.09 billion), but the export-driven recovery at big manufacturers has failed to spill over into the broader economy.

The economy grew in the first quarter of 2002 after its deepest downturn since World War II in 2001, but economists say further growth this year is far from certain.

Latest jobless data showed nationwide unemployment at 5.2 percent, not far from a postwar high of 5.5 percent in December and with economists forecasting that the rate will crawl toward 6 percent over the coming year.

That, economists say, means consumer spending—which makes up about 55 percent of gross domestic product—will probably remain stagnant.

Also hinting at the fragility of Japan's recovery, the index of economic activity in all industries announced last week showed a fall of 1.3 percent in April from March.

Economists said that the tankan survey would probably show a slight improvement in corporate spending, as manufacturers upgrade their equipment and some non-manufacturers invest in systems integration, but the indices would remain negative. *Reuters*

### DESPITE TENSION

# Silicon Valley firms keep bets on India's prospects

SAN FRANCISCO—Silicon Valley entrepreneurs and investors, famous for taking the long view, look at India and see mostly economic opportunity still largely unclouded by the threat of war with neighboring Pakistan.

"It's business as usual," said Danial Faizullabhoy of Walden International, a San Francisco venture firm looking for office space in downtown Bombay. "I was born in Bombay and in my lifetime there has always been tension with Pakistan."

"Life goes on," Faizullabhoy said. "You've got to stay cognizant of it. But in venture capital you have to look at the long term."

India and Pakistan have been locked in a military standoff with a million troops massed on both sides of their border since a December attack on the Indian parliament that New Delhi blamed on Pakistan-based guerrillas.

Tensions eased following international efforts to defuse the crisis and a pledge by Pakistan to stop militants from entering the Indian part of the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir, but fears of war between the two nuclear-armed powers have not receded completely.

Even so, India's long-term includes many positives for US venture firms since many see it as an emerging powerhouse for outsourced information technology services and manufacturing, and as an exporter of home-grown technology goods. *Reuters*

# IMF, Argentina at loggerheads over crisis

BUENOS AIRES—Argentina is toughening its stance with the IMF on finding a compromise solution to the economic crisis, President Eduardo Duhalde said Sunday, as the contagion spills over into neighboring countries.

"With the difficulties that we have and with so far not knowing what kind of aid we are going to obtain, it is very difficult to have a concrete economic plan," Duhalde said.

Duhalde spoke hours before Economy Minister Roberto Lavagna set off for Washington to meet International Monetary Fund officials in search of financial assistance.

Lavagna also said not all the fault lies with Argentina.

"It is clear that all is not going well with the (international finance) system and there must be some changes," he told journalists.

"There are proposed changes," Lavagna said. However, "They come up when there is a crisis and are filed away later."

Duhalde said he had spoken with Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso and Uruguayan President Jorge Batlle, leaders of Mercosur countries, about their concerns that Argentina's nearly four-year economic crisis has finally begun to affect its partners in the free-trade zone.

"They are concerned but at the same time they are with us, they also want to avoid difficulties," Duhalde said.

Argentina has been unable to meet IMF guidelines to be eligible for the disbursement of a badly needed $9.5-billion loan since Duhalde took office Jan. 1.

Argentina has changed its bankruptcy law and repealed its economic subversion law to please the IMF, but has been unable to convince provincial governors to spend within their budgets and to stop issuing paper scrip to employees.

The government partially froze bank accounts in December and depositors have been demonstrating in the streets ever since.

The economy contracted a record 16.3 percent in the first quarter of 2002 as unemployment hit 25 percent. The IMF wants to see fiscal spending cut, which would result in layoffs of about half a million more state workers.

The peso has plunged 70 percent in value since Duhalde removed it from its one-to-one peg with the dollar, despite attempts to sustain it by the central bank.

Central Bank of Argentina president Mario Blejer, a 21-year International Monetary Fund veteran who took the post in January, said he would resign at the end of the month. *AFP*

MESSAGES

I extend my cordial greetings to the members of the Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers of the Philippines, Inc. on your 2002 Mid-Year General Membership Meeting and Technical Forum.

This event is a step in maximizing consciousness on the tremendous potential of ICT to enhance the productivity of various institutions. This is made significant by our present thrust to develop information and communication technology as one among the key sectors in implementing our agenda for sustainable development. Like our neighbors in Asia, we hope to take advantage of the opportunities presented by this sector and boost our competitive edge.

With our country's highly skilled, professional and trainable human resource, events like this bolster our nation's bid to be a major player in the international IT, telecommunications, and electronics industries. It is my hope that this gathering will enable a healthy exchange of ideas and consultations that will hasten the growth of ICT in the country. United in vision and efforts, we shall have a better chance to become successful in this highly dynamic field of Information and Communication Technology that is shaping today's economies.

I wish the fruitful culmination of this event. More power and *mabuhay!*

(Sgd.) **GLORIA MACAPAGAL - ARROYO**
President, Republic of the Philippines

The Institute of Integrated Electrical Engineers of the Philippines, Inc. was founded to promote Electrical Engineering in support of national development. The work of meeting international standards in the practice of electrical engineering never stops. It is a continuing process, sustained by the commitment to ensure electrical safety and provide quality life to everyone.

This year, IIEE casts a critical eye over itself and forward to the future. Amid a more competitive market resulting from information technology, global economic policies, and political movements, IIEE prepares to transform the way it thinks and works, carrying the Institute's theme for the year, "Transforming IIEE to Meet the Challenges of Globalization and IT," the 2002 Mid-Year General Membership Meeting and Technical Forum articulates and animates our desire to remain relevant.

This convention is another step to meet the repercussions of globalization and move towards the Internet. In addition, it is an opportunity to strengthen our community and our ties with existing partners, and at the same time, reach out to new membership.

On behalf of the entire IIEE community, I am pleased to welcome you to the 2002 IIEE Mid-Year General Membership Meeting and Technical Forum. It is my fervent desire that you enjoy the many events that we have prepared, even as you gain new learnings and insights.

Thank you and God bless us all.

(Sgd.) **FRANCIS V. MAPILE**
IIEE National President

I share the joy and goodwill of the 2002 National Board of Governors and the Convention Bureau in welcoming our beloved delegates to the 2002 IIEE Mid-Year General Membership Meeting and Technical Forum.

Carrying the annual theme "Transforming IIEE to Meet the Challenges of Globalization and IT," the event shall feature Information Technology-intensive technical seminars and product presentations that have direct application or relation to electrical engineering practice. Moreover, our electrical industry exhibition will likewise include exhibitors from the IT and telecommunication sectors to manifest the gradual fusion of these disciplines as we move deeper in to the 21st century. Finally, our plenary forum discussion will evolve around topics and issues that have a direct impact on our drive towards global competitiveness and convergence.

"Transforming IIEE to Meet the Challenges of Globalization and IT" is a tall order we in the electrical profession have resolved to pursue for the year 2002. Integral to attaining this noteworthy objective is the staging of our 2002 Mid-Year General Membership Meeting and Technical Forum. And in the next three days beginning June 27, members of the Institute from all over the country will converge at the Manila Midtown Hotel to begin the transformation.

To all our valued delegates, exhibitors, sponsors and guests, our heartfelt thanks and best wishes for a fruitful and memorable mid-year convention. *Mabuhay po kayong lahat!*

(Sgd.) **MIGUEL H. LAGMAN**
IIEE Vice President for Internal Affairs/
Executive Director, 2002 Convention Bureau

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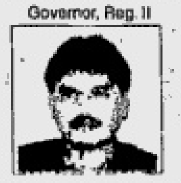
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PROGRAM

| | |
|---|---|
| **June 25 (Tuesday)** | |
| 1:00 pm | **Fellowship Golf**<br>Intramuros Golf Club |
| **June 26 (Wednesday)** | |
| 8:30 am - 1:00 pm | **On-Site Registration**<br>Manila Midtown Hotel |
| 12:00 nn - 5:00 pm | **4th Inter-IIEE Mid-Year Fun Bowling Tournament**<br>New Bowling Inn Center |
| **June 27 (Thursday) / Manila Midtown Hotel** | |
| 9:00 am | **Opening Ceremonies**<br>Keynote Speaker:<br>**Mr. Victor L. Magdaraog**<br>Incoming President, Phil. Computer Society<br>**Formal Launching of PEC 1 2000 Edition** |
| 11:30 am | **Formal Opening of Exhibits** |
| 1:00 - 5:00 pm | **Business Meeting/Open Forum on Prof'l. Practice** |
| **June 28 (Friday) / Manila Midtown Hotel** | |
| 8:30 am - 12:00 nn | **Product Presentations** |
| 1:00 - 5:00 pm | **Plenary Technical Sessions** |
| **June 29 (Saturday) / Manila Midtown Hotel** | |
| 8:00 am - 12:15 pm | **Technical Sessions** |
| 1:30 - 4:30 pm | **Plenary Technical Sessions** |
| 4:45 - 7:00 pm | **Closing Ceremonies**<br>Guest Speaker:<br>**Hon. Ben-Hur C. Salcedo**<br>Undersecretary, Department of Energy |

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Improving Solutions on Motor Starter Components
New Range of Low Voltage Circuit Breakers
Medium Voltage Protection
by Schneider Electric (Phil.), Inc.
The Role of Electrical Engineers in Global Lighting Market Transformation
by Efficient Lighting Initiative Phils., Inc.
Major Changes in the Latest Edition of PEC 1
by IIEE PEC 1 Committee

TECHNICAL SESSIONS TOPICS
Total Quality Management
by Mr. Joji C. Valenciano
Electrical Provisions on the National Building Code
by Mr. Benjamin N. Villacorta
E-Commerce Law & its Applications
by Mr. Titus C. Manuel
Grid Code/Distribution Code
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Autocad 2000i
by Mr. Mario J. Ramirez
Gas-Insulated Substation
by Mr. Jose Mari P. Melendres
Trends in Energy Metering
by Mr. Jose Ricky V. Tan
Basic Motor Control for Master Electricians
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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### AUCTION SALE

JECARO PAWNSHOP
Bonifacio St. Sta. Cruz Laguna will sell all expired pledges on June 26, 2002, 4:00PM V. Zamora Jr. Auctioneer

Nuestra-Damus Pawnshop
Makati City
Auction Sale on July 6, 2002 all unredeemed pledges during the month of February 1-28, 2002. Nuestra Br. II Plo-9:30am; Nuestra Br. I 10:30am; Nuestra Br. VI-11:30am; Damus Pasong Tamo-12:30pm; Nuestra Main JP-1:30pm; Nuestra Br. IX Zapote 3:00pm.
-Sons of J. Lanuza-Auctioneer-

NUESTRA-DIAJADE
PAWNSHOP
LAS PINAS METRO MANILA
Will have its auction sale on July 8, 2002. All unredeemed pledges during the month of February 01-28, 2002. Diajade Main-9:30am; Diajade Br. II 10:30am; Nuestra Br. III-11:30am; Diajade Br. I-1:00pm, Nuestra Almanza 2:00pm.
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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is given that the estate of the late ROMAN T. ACOSTA has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Doc#9; Page#2; Book#IV; Series of 2002 before Notary Public Crisanto L. Garcia, Jr. of Batangas.
(PDI-June 18, 25 & July 2, 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late DENNIS S. ISIDRO was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Extrajudicial Settlement with Waiver (Doc.No. 109, Page No. 19, Book No. V, Series of 2002 of Notary Public Andres C. Villaruel,Jr. of Quezon City)
(PDI-June 18, 25&July 2,2002)

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## ROLAND ACHAZO BERMUDEZ

**of Plaridel, Bulacan**

Beloved husband of **Leila Pascual-Bermudez**
Dedicated father to **Czarina** and **Kevin**
Good son to **Ruben Bocobo-Bermudez** (†)
and **Julie Achazo-Bermudez** (†)

*Peacefully joined his Creator*
*on Sunday, June 23, 2002 at the age of 48.*

His wife and children, brother **Joey** and wife **Ester**; sister **Nilda** and husband **Jaime**; stepbrother **Edgar**; relatives and friends will always remember him for his deep love for his family and request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Thursday, June 27, 2002 at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

*"To do your will, o my God, is my desire;*
*your law is within my heart."*
*Psalm 40:8*

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"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord." Matthew 10:39

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*"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live,*
*Even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."*
John 11:25-26

**In Loving Memory**
**On the Sixth Death Anniversary of**

## JUDGE MANUEL K. GRUBA

**Formerly of the Court of Appeals**

*Who passed on to Eternal Life on June 26, 1996*

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered
At the following churches:

| UNITED STATES OF AMERICA | | |
|---|---|---|
| **June 25, 2002** | **Franciscan Monastery**<br>1400 Quincy Street, N.E.<br>Washington D.C. 20017 | All Masses |
| | **St. Joan of Arc Church**<br>11534 Gateway Bl. LA, CA 90064, USA | 8:00 a.m. |
| **PHILIPPINES** | | |
| **June 26, 2002** | **Our Lady of Lourdes Church**<br>Quezon City | All Masses |
| | **Santuario de San Jose**<br>San Juan | All Masses |
| | **St. Jude Catholic Church**<br>San Miguel, Manila | 6:30 a.m.<br>6:00 p.m. |
| | **Mary The Queen Parish**<br>San Juan | 7:00 a.m.<br>6:00 p.m. |
| | **Carmel Shrine**<br>Quezon City | 6:00 a.m.<br>7:00 a.m.<br>6:00 p.m. |
| | **Santo Domingo Church**<br>Quezon City | 12 nn |
| | **Ntra. Sra. Del Perpetual Socorro Parish**<br>2042 Calamba, Manila | 6:00 a.m.<br>6:00 p.m. |
| | **Our Lady of La Consolation Church**<br>Mira Nila Homes<br>Quezon City | 6:00 a.m.<br>6:30 p.m. |
| | **Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish**<br>Kamuning, Quezon City | 6:00 a.m.<br>6:00 p.m. |

*We request readers, relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.*

---

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*"For I am convinced that neither death nor life,*
*neither the present nor the future,*
*nor any powers, neither height nor depth,*
*nor anything else in all creation,*
*will be able to separate us from the*
*love of God that is Christ Jesus Our Lord."*
Romans 8:38-39

## PRISCO GARCIA BARADAS

(1921 - 2002)
PROMOTED TO HEAVEN
His body lies at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe.
Interment will be in Lucena City.

---

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## ERRATUM ON BIDDING, PRE-REBIDDING AND REBIDDING DATES

Please be informed that the tender on **July 9, 2002** for the supply of min/max 17,043.50 MT raw cane and/or white cane refined sugar (fines) has been moved to **July 4, 2002** at the NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, 101 Matimyas Building, E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.

In case of failure a **pre-rebidding/rebidding** will be conducted on **July 9, 2002** and **July 11, 2002**, respectively, at **2:00 p.m.**, at the NFA Boardroom.

(Sgd.) **VICENTE V. RACHO**
*Chairman, Pre-qualification*
*Bids and Award Committee*

(PDI - June 25 2002)

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**(DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT)**
Batasan Pambansa Complex Constitution Hills
Quezon City

June 14, 2002

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), a national government agency, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), is inviting duly accredited Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO) to apply for eligibility and to bid for the provision of **HEALTHCARE SERVICES FOR DSWD EMPLOYEES NATIONWIDE THROUGH A HEALTH CARD SYSTEM.**

For the purpose of this bid, eligible bidders shall be those who have accredited hospital and clinics in **ALL** regions of the country.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and secure the complete set of bidding documents, **upon presentation of a letter of intent, from June 19 to 28, 2002 from Ms. Maricris Jacinto**, BAC Secretariat, Property and Supply Division, 2nd Floor, DSWD, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City with telephone nos. (632) **931-8161**, (632) **931-8101** to **07** local **125**, and fax no. (632) **951-7116**.

A **Pre-bid Conference** is scheduled on **June 28, 2002** at 10:00 a.m. to be held at the Administrative Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DSWD, Constitution Hills, Quezon City.

Sealed application for eligibility and bid proposal, together with the bid security, must be delivered to the BAC Secretariat on or before 2:00 p.m. of **July 11, 2002**. Thereafter, eligibility and bid envelopes will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representative(s) who choose to attend. Opening of bids will be held at the Administrative Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DSWD, Constitution Hills, Quezon City. **Late bid proposals/quotations will not be accepted**.

DSWD hereby reserves the right to reject any or all applications for eligibility and to bid, to waive any formality therein and/or accept the bid as maybe considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **RHODA F. YAP**
*Assistant Secretary and Chairperson,*
*Bids and Awards Committee*

(PDI - June 18 & 25, 2002)

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**National Power Corporation**
SMALL POWER UTILITIES GROUP

## INVITATION TO BID

SPUG-MMSS-02-0010

Interested suppliers are invited to submit sealed bids to be opened publicly at the National Power Corporation, Small Power Utilities Group, Second Floor, Training Center Building, BIR Road corner Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

| INQUIRY NO. | DESCRIPTION | OPENING DATE | TIME |
|---|---|---|---|
| PB020715-PDEM1152 | VARIOUS SPARE PARTS FOR DAIHATSU | PREBID: 7/5<br>OPENING: 7/15 | 10:00 AM<br>10:00 AM |
| PB020715-PDVB1153 | VARIOUS SPARE PARTS FOR HITACHI SULZER | PREBID: 7/5<br>OPENING: 7/15 | 02:00 PM<br>02:00 PM |
| PB020712-PDEM1151 | ELECTRICAL PARTS FOR DALE GENSET | OPENING: 7/12 | 02:00 PM |
| PB020515-PDAM1030 (PB2) | SECURITY SERVICES | OPENING: 7/08 | 02:00 PM |
| PB020515-PDVB1083 (PB2) | 10KV INSULATION FACTOR TEST | OPENING: 7/08 | 10:00 AM |
| PB020531-PDAC1075 (PB2) | VARIOUS PARTS FOR CKD | OPENING: 7/08 | 10:00 AM |
| PB020315-PDVB0948 (PB3) | MANPOWER SERVICES FOR O&M OF NPC TUGBOAT | OPENING: 7/10 | 02:00 PM |

Bidding documents will be available to qualified interested parties starting JUNE 26, 2002 upon payment of P100.00 per schedule, which is non-refundable and upon presentation of company I.D., and company authorization. Issuance and receipts of documents are done every morning between 8:00 to 11:30 AM only at the above address.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

**MATERIALS MANAGEMENT SERVICES SECTION**
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION
PSD-SPUG

(PDI -- June 25, 2002)

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END CORPORATE GREED
SOLIDARITY
GREED
WS NO BOUNDARIES
ALBERTA
MAN RIGHTS AND IN
RATION OF LABOUR
NATIONAL SOLIDARITY COMMITT

**A COALITION** of various organizations holds a peaceful march in Calgary, Canada, calling attention to various issues from the environment to the global economy. According to police estimates, there were about 2,000 protesters attending Sunday's march. Leaders of the world's most powerful nations will be meeting next week for the G-8 summit in the village of Kananaskis, near Calgary. AP

# Study shows US subsidies will hurt global trade talks

SYDNEY—The recent decision of the United States to subsidize its farmers will depress prices for key Australian exports and damage a new round of global trade talks, a forecaster warned here Monday.

In its first analysis of the impact of the US Farm Bill, the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (Abare) said the subsidy package had already hit sugar prices.

Although farmers and politicians had expressed fears about the impact of the increased US subsidies, the Abare study is the first evidence of the likely extent of the damage.

The bureau also gave Australian farmers the bad news that after a period of strong production and rising exports spurred by helpful weather and a falling Australian currency, they are now facing declining fortunes.

The value of farm exports would slip 9.2 percent to $27.7 billion for 2002-2003. Farm prices are expected to drop almost 12 percent after improving 7 percent this financial year, the bureau said.

The Farm Bill, which will give US farmers about $190 billion in subsidies and protection for 10 years, has triggered criticism across the globe, with Australia and other free-trading agricultural nations attacking Washington for jeopardizing trade liberalization.

Abare said the Farm Bill would hurt the new round of world trade talks which are supposed to focus on reforming agriculture.

It would also lead to increased production in a range of commodities, pushing prices down and destabilizing the global pricing structure.

"Australian farmers can expect lower and more variable prices and greater competition from government-supported US products as a result of the bill," it said.

"The already very depressing effects of US policies on Australian sugar will continue."

In its June quarter forecasts, Abare said sugar prices would fall about 7 percent in 2002-2003, cutting the value of Australia's sugar exports 9 percent even though production was up.

Milk export prices are tipped to fall 9.9 percent, cutting the value of Australia's exports 10.8 percent to $2.6 billion.

Abare warned the United States could be pressured into using its subsidy system in more areas such as food aid and export credits.

There was a strong likelihood of bigger American dairy and sugar surpluses at a time when prices were already starting to fall.

Abare said one of the biggest threats posed by the Farm Bill was its impact on the World Trade Organization (WTO) round of talks. *AFP*

# Fed seen holding US interest rates steady amid market gloom

WASHINGTON—The US Federal Reserve is expected to keep interest rates steady when it meets this week and economists are virtually united in the view that the central bank will stay on hold for months to come.

With a US economic recovery that is crawling, not roaring ahead, dismal stock markets, a soft US dollar and no discernible threat of rising price pressures, there is little to prompt a move in the short run.

"I think the expansion is likely to be sustainable but not necessarily very strong," former Fed Governor Alice Rivlin said. "I think the Fed will take its time about raising interest rates."

All 22 firms that deal directly with the Fed in the money markets believe the central bank will hold its benchmark lending rate, which influences borrowing costs throughout the economy, at a four-decade low of 1.75 percent when it meets on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Most of the firms do not see a rate hike until November and a few believe the Fed will not act until next year.

That marks a change from early in the year when many expected the Fed would already have one rate hike under its belt by now.

Fed officials, who are expected to announce their rate decision at 2:15 p.m. (1815 GMT) on Wednesday, have made clear that they see a pickup in business investment spending as crucial to ensure a solid, sustainable recovery.

While most economists think an end is near to the drop in investment spending that led the economy into recession in March 2001, they say a decisive rebound is likely still many months away.

"Capital investment is not going anywhere very fast," Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan said of the economy earlier this month. "Our outlook at the Fed hasn't really materially changed since January."

Gloom on Wall Street is compounding the economy's woes.

US stock markets have been tumbling for weeks, with investors jittery over corporate accounting and debt, violence in the Middle East, a threat of war between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan and the possibility of additional attacks on the United States.

On Friday, they hit their lowest point of the year, not far above the three-year lows reached in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks.

That weakness is making it harder for companies to raise capital and is seen increasing the risk that consumers will close their wallets as they watch their portfolios shrink.

"It's very, very unusual that the stock market fails to lead, but it fails to lead now," said Conference Board economist Victor Zarnowitz, who is also a member of the National Bureau of Economic Research's elite panel that dates recessions and recoveries.

"It goes down even in an economy that seems to be recovering. That's very, very worrisome to me."

Still, most analysts, including Zarnowitz, say the stock market appears driven by concerns other than the economy's performance and they downplay the risk that the United States might tip back into recession—the so-called double dip. *Reuters*

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LIFESTYLE Fitness

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

# To drink or not to drink

**WELL AND GOOD**

*Tina Juan*

MODERATE consumption of alcohol has surprising health benefits that have surfaced over the last 20 years. But you won't see many health professionals enthusiastically recommending it the way they encourage the public to eat at least five servings of fruits and vegetables or to exercise regularly. The reason is that alcohol is a double-edged sword. While moderate consumption has a protective effect on the heart,

TO DRINK / p.C4

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| 10 hrs. | 390 | *40hrs. | 1130 | *70hrs. | 1530 |
| 20 hrs. | 660 | *50 hrs. | 1330 | *80 hrs. | 1650 |

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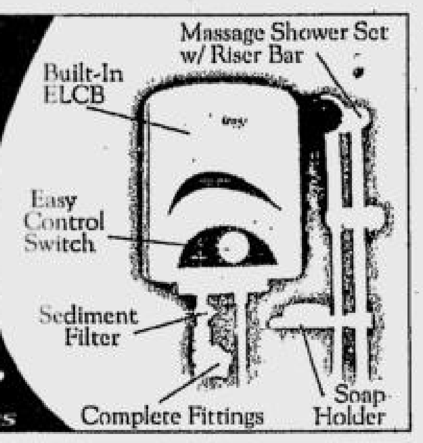

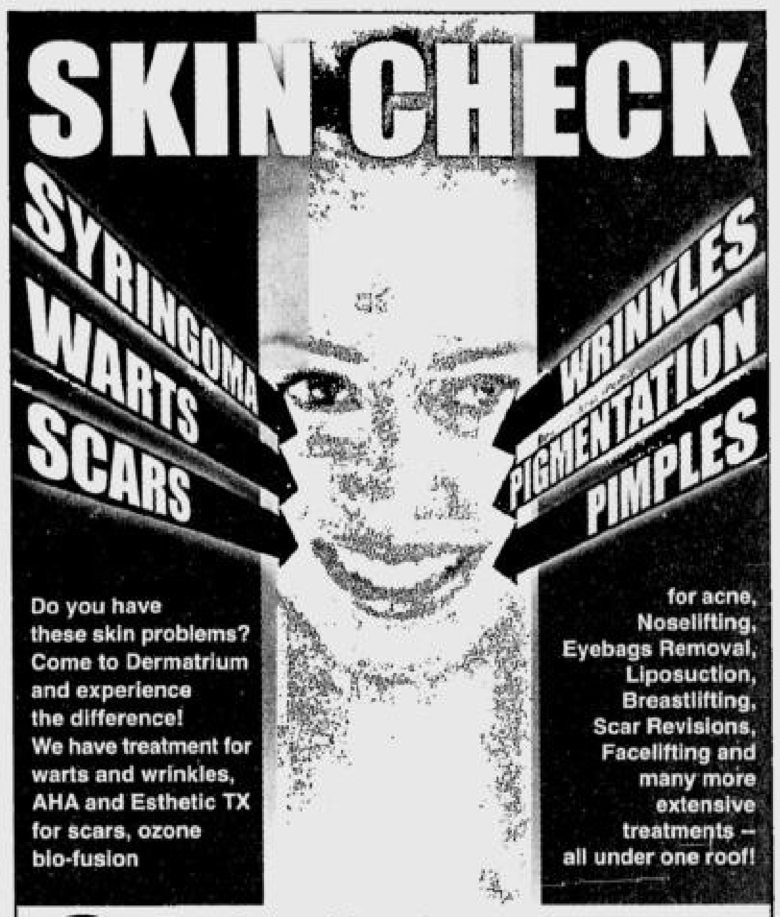

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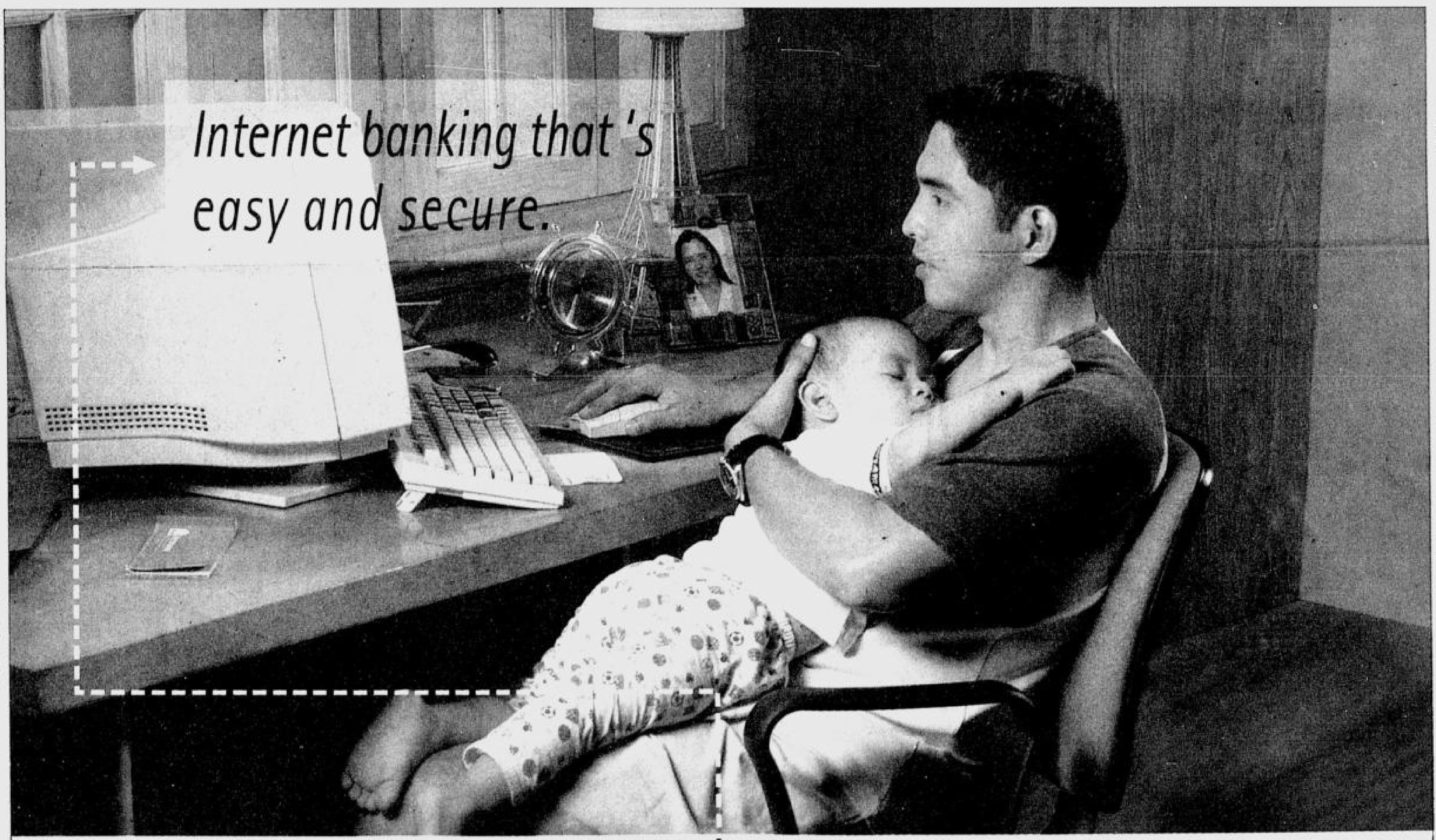

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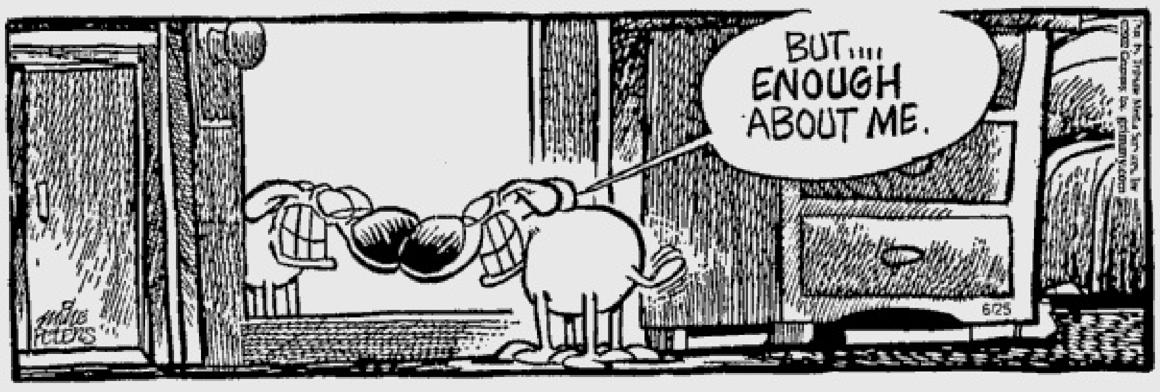
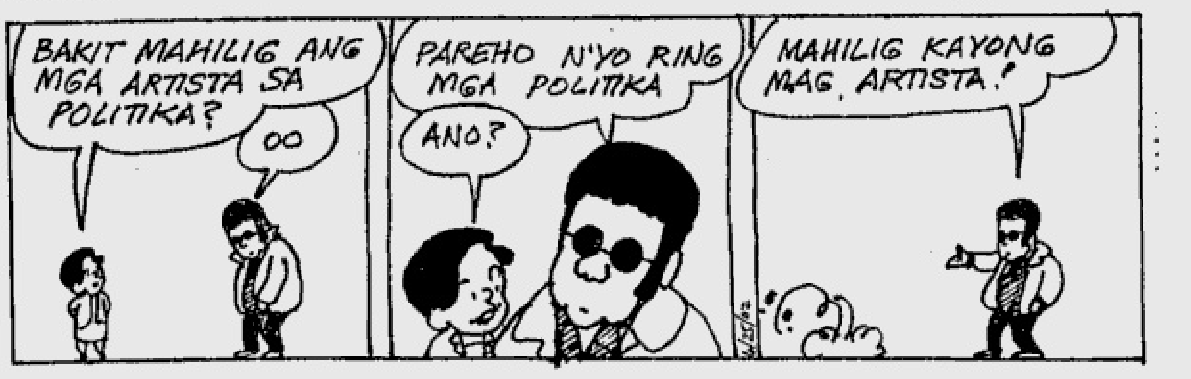
## MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


BUT.... ENOUGH ABOUT ME.
MIKE PETERS
6/25

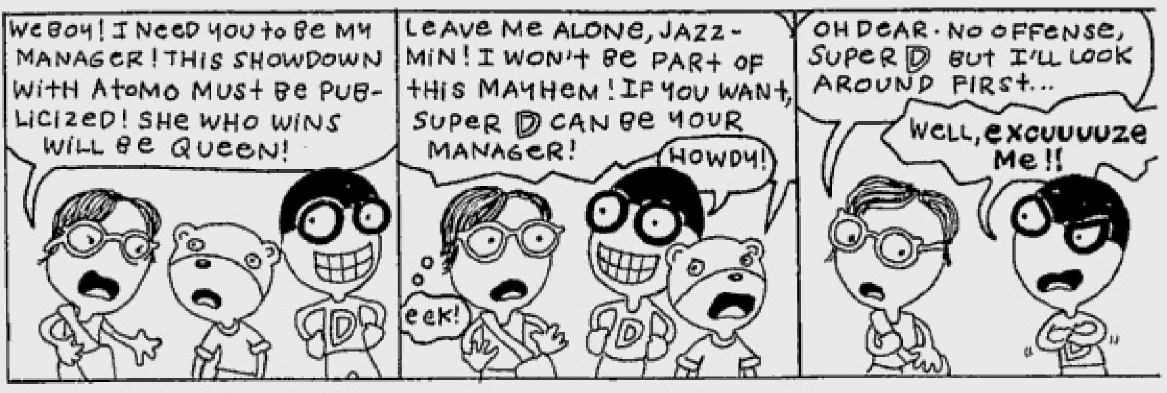
## A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


BAKIT MAHILIG ANG MGA ARTISTA SA POLITIKA?
OO
PAREHO N'YO RING MGA POLITIKA
ANO?
MAHILIG KAYONG MAG ARTISTA!

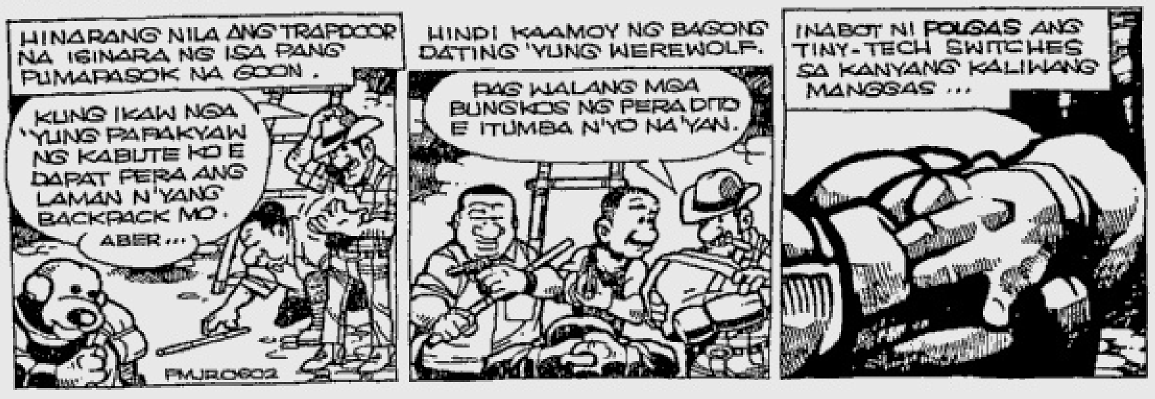
## ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WEBOY! I NEED YOU TO BE MY MANAGER! THIS SHOWDOWN WITH ATOMO MUST BE PUBLICIZED! SHE WHO WINS WILL BE QUEEN!
LEAVE ME ALONE, JAZZMIN! I WON'T BE PART OF THIS MAYHEM! IF YOU WANT, SUPER D CAN BE YOUR MANAGER!
HOWDY!
eek!
OH DEAR. NO OFFENSE, SUPER D BUT I'LL LOOK AROUND FIRST...
WELL, EXCUUUUZE ME!!

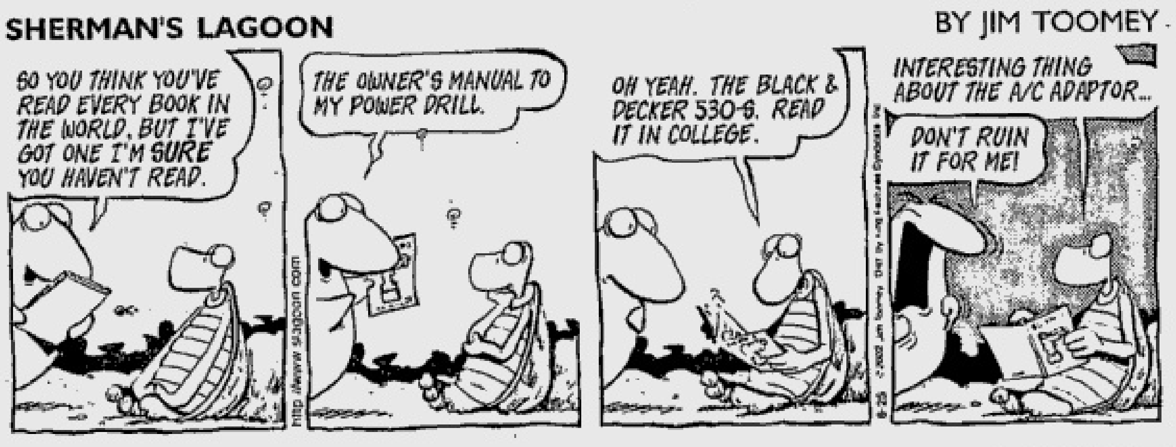
## PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HINARANG NILA ANG TRAPDOOR NA IGINARA NG ISA PANG PUMAPASOK NA GOON.
KUNG IKAW NGA 'YUNG PAPAKYAW NG KABUTE KO E DAPAT PERA ANG LAMAN N'YANG BACKPACK MO.
ABER...
PMJR0602
HINDI KAAMOY NG BAGONG DATING 'YUNG WEREWOLF.
PAG WALANG MGA BUNGKOS NG PERA DITO E ITUMBA N'YO NA'YAN.
INABOT NI POLGAS ANG TINY-TECH SWITCHES SA KANYANG KALIWANG MANGGAS...

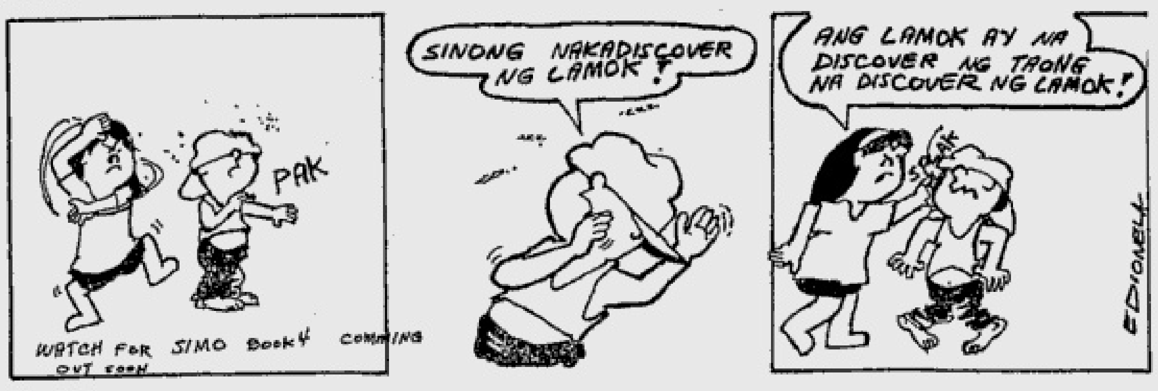
## SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SO YOU THINK YOU'VE READ EVERY BOOK IN THE WORLD, BUT I'VE GOT ONE I'M SURE YOU HAVEN'T READ.
THE OWNER'S MANUAL TO MY POWER DRILL.
http://www.slagoon.com
OH YEAH. THE BLACK & DECKER 530-6. READ IT IN COLLEGE.
INTERESTING THING ABOUT THE A/C ADAPTOR...
DON'T RUIN IT FOR ME!

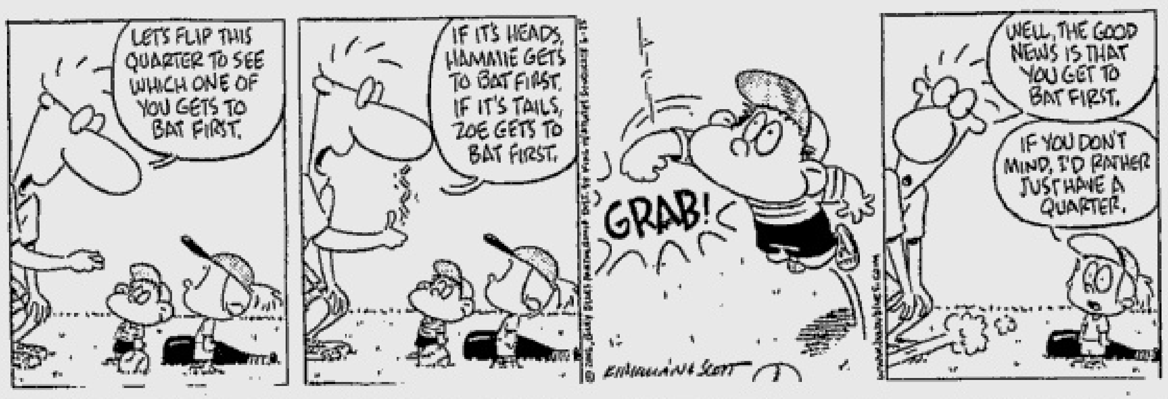
## SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


PAK
WATCH FOR SIMO Book 4 COMMING OUT SOON
SINONG NAKADISCOVER NG LAMOK?
ANG LAMOK AY NA DISCOVER NG TAONG NA DISCOVER NG LAMOK!
EDIONELA

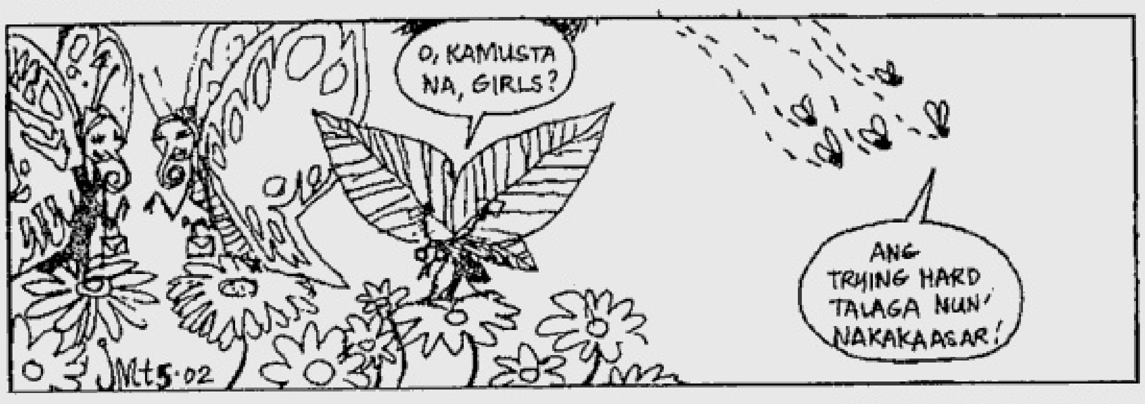
## BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


LET'S FLIP THIS QUARTER TO SEE WHICH ONE OF YOU GETS TO BAT FIRST.
IF IT'S HEADS, HAMMIE GETS TO BAT FIRST. IF IT'S TAILS, ZOE GETS TO BAT FIRST.
GRAB!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
WELL, THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT YOU GET TO BAT FIRST.
IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D RATHER JUST HAVE A QUARTER.

## MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


O, KAMUSTA NA, GIRLS?
ANG TRYING HARD TALAGA NUN! NAKAKAASAR!
JMt 5·02

## HOROSCOPE

### BY EUGENIA LAST

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Carly Simon, George Orwell, June Lockhart, George Michael

**Happy Birthday:** Invest in areas that deal with products and/or services for the home this year. You will be lucky when it comes to work, investments or any other financial matters this year. Put time and effort into making your home a place of beauty and comfort. Your family ties will be strong and you will reach your goals. Your numbers are 2, 6, 13, 22, 31, 38

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Don't let anyone force you into a heated discussion. You'll be in a bad mood if things don't go according to plan. Do something that is highly energetic to relieve stress.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Get involved in talks, groups, courses, travel or tours today. You will meet new and exciting friends if you take the initiative.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Take precautions where contracts or legal matters are concerned. An older friend or relative may need a little guidance today.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Peace and quiet should be what you are striving for today. Your mood swings will be hard to control and you should probably make a point of trying to deal with the issues bothering you quickly and efficiently.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** This is a money day for you if you are quick to react to possible new enterprises. Business opportunities are apparent. Someone you've worked with in the past may offer you the chance of a lifetime.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Those less creative will definitely admire your flair. You can make new friends and get involved in new hobbies if you a join group that offers a social side.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** It's probably best to accept what is going on in your personal life. Changes taking place in your home are necessary even if you aren't too happy about it right now. Keep in mind that the result will be in your favor.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** It's time to stand up for yourself and speak your mind. Talk to people with experience to receive advice that should help you make the right choices. Prepare to deal with the little delays you encounter.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Don't let your personal life interfere in your productivity. Use discrimination when choosing partners. Someone may be trying to take advantage of you.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Don't overreact to whatever is going on in your personal life today. It may be confusing but if you just sit back and wait, everything will be revealed. Don't act in haste.

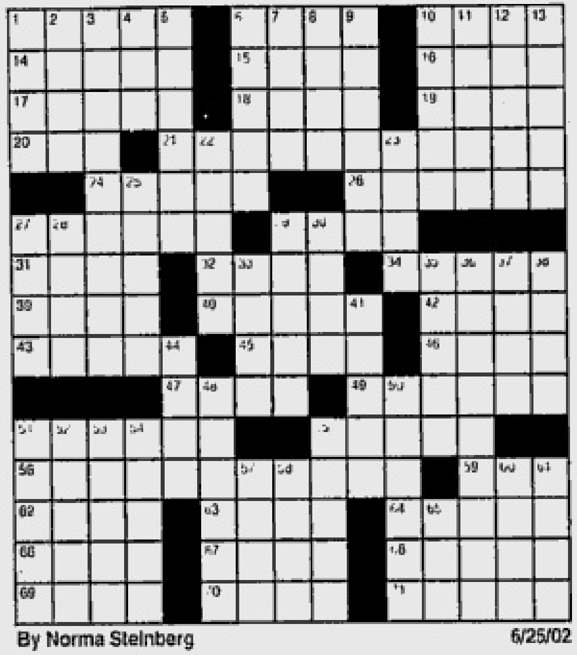
**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Take a quick look behind you. Secret enemies may be trying to make you look bad. Keep in mind that you have original ideas and if you follow your heart and your dreams you can't go wrong.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** You will probably run into someone from your past if you get involved in an event catering to days gone by. A reunion will bring back memories and probably lead to some unfinished business.

**Birthday Baby:** You will always be on the move. Your nervous energy will help you accomplish whatever you set out to do. You will understand a lot at a young age and will be able to explain your thoughts with clarity.

## DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA

6/25/02

**ACROSS**

1 Indian prince
6 Letters for auditors
10 Agenda component
14 Island off Venezuela
15 Litter's littlest
16 Long John of the PGA
17 Cook's clock
18 Present starter?
19 Stage direction
20 Tree juice
21 Decision to believe
24 Long-legged bird
26 Setbacks
27 Detroit
29 Supplication
31 Alda or Ladd
32 Words of realization
34 "The Pirates of Penzance" heroine
39 Mother of France
40 Works for
42 A few
43 Houston pro
45 Quit it!
46 Eight to Yves
47 Blackjack tie
49 Go-betweens
51 Rowling's hero
55 Statistical inclination
56 Seasonal restlessness
59 Research rm.
62 Get better
63 Snakelike fish
64 Field of action
66 Parched
67 Identify
68 Itemized accounts
69 Diminish
70 Quick step
71 Medicinal portions

**DOWN**

1 Phooey!
2 "Stride la vampa," e.g.
3 Dead battery solution
4 Vigoda of "Barney Miller"
5 "Hell's Angels" star
6 Frog call
7 Well adjunct
8 Part of A.D.
9 Suppress
10 Novel thoughts
11 Cabs
12 Select group
13 Legends
22 Sgt. Bilko
23 Masses of bubbles
25 Skin cream
27 Cradle call
28 Bravos at the bullring
29 Former capital of Scotland
30 Late night Jay
33 Mouth off
35 Pale
36 Unlimited
37 Give forth
38 Oh, why not?
41 Trunk tire
44 Candid
48 Pressing
50 Ford or McRaney
51 Fiddlesticks!
52 La Scala production
53 Prepare for the bout
54 Spanish diacritical mark
55 Boob tube
57 Phobia
58 Ticklish doll
60 Poker stake
61 Choir part
65 Carnival city, briefly

**Monday's Puzzle Solved**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| B | E | A | R | D | ■ | P | A | W | S | ■ | E | V | E | R |
| A | D | L | A | I | ■ | E | X | I | T | ■ | L | I | V | E |
| S | I | M | P | L | I | C | I | T | Y | ■ | E | S | A | U |
| E | T | S | ■ | B | R | A | S | H | ■ | A | C | I | D | S |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | R | E | I | N | ■ | ■ | S | E | T | T | E | E |
| O | T | T | E | R | S | ■ | T | E | N | O | R | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| R | E | A | C | T | ■ | R | E | M | I | N | I | S | C | E |
| B | A | L | I | ■ | F | I | X | I | T | ■ | C | O | A | L |
| S | K | E | P | T | I | C | A | L | ■ | V | I | O | L | S |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | R | A | V | E | N | ■ | R | A | T | T | L | E |
| I | G | N | O | R | E | ■ | ■ | J | U | R | Y | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| T | R | A | C | T | ■ | C | H | E | S | S | ■ | M | I | D |
| S | E | M | I | ■ | E | L | A | S | T | I | C | I | T | Y |
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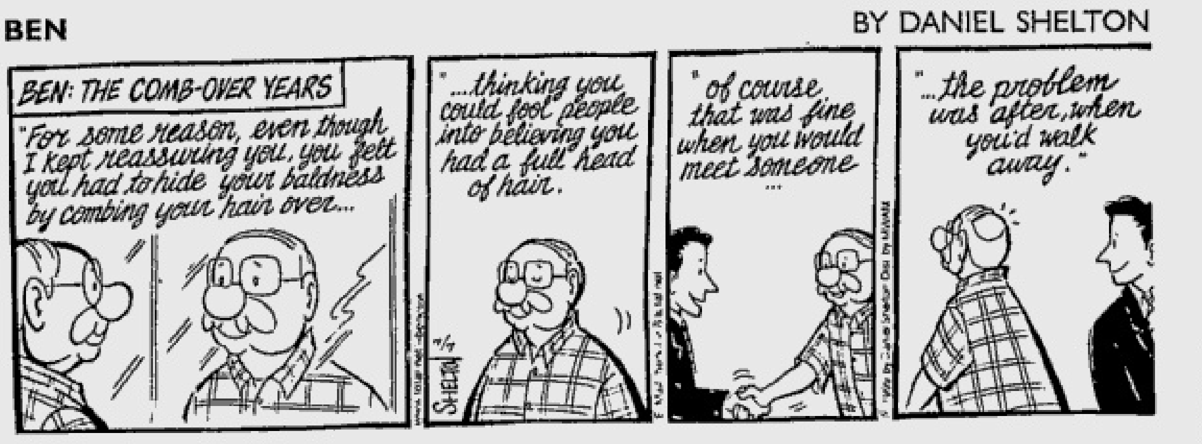
6/25/02

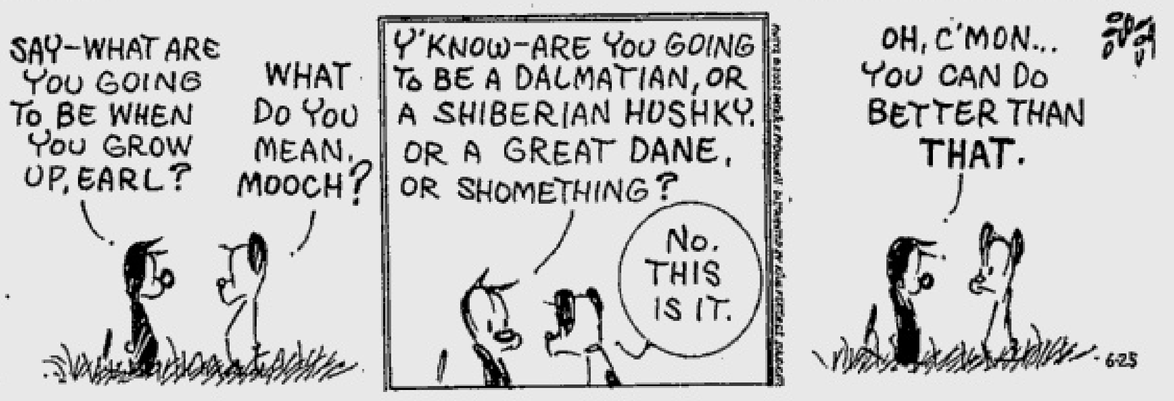
## BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


BEN: THE COMB-OVER YEARS
"For some reason, even though I kept reassuring you, you felt you had to hide your baldness by combing your hair over...
"...thinking you could fool people into believing you had a full head of hair.
SHELTON
"of course that was fine when you would meet someone ...
"...the problem was after, when you'd walk away."

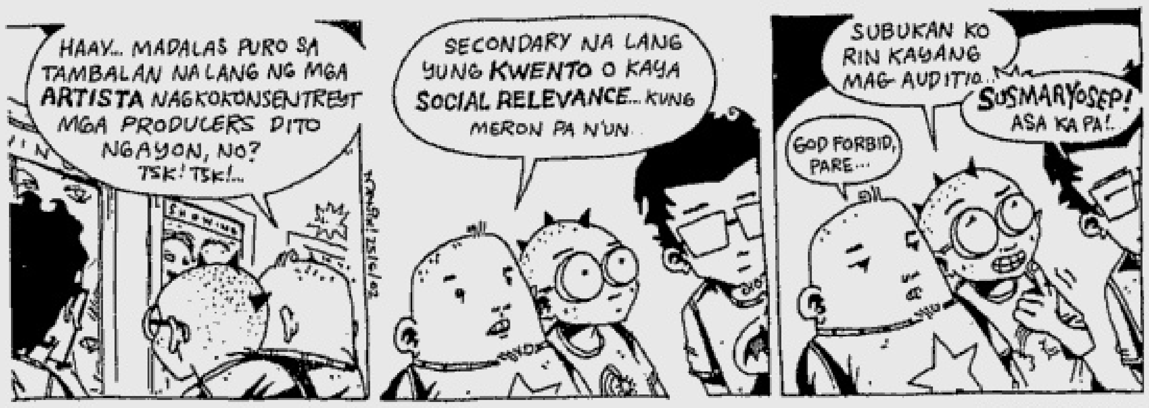
## MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SAY—WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP, EARL?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MOOCH?
Y'KNOW—ARE YOU GOING TO BE A DALMATIAN, OR A SHIBERIAN HUSHKY, OR A GREAT DANE, OR SHOMETHING?
NO. THIS IS IT.
OH, C'MON... YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT.
6-25

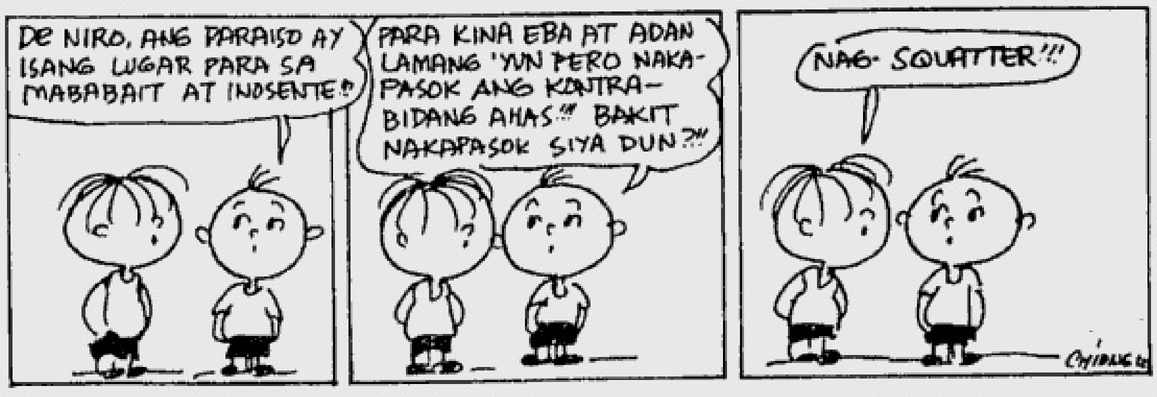
## KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HAAY... MADALAS PURO SA TAMBALAN NA LANG NG MGA ARTISTA NAGKOKONSENTREYT MGA PRODUCERS DITO NGAYON, NO? TSK! TSK!...
SECONDARY NA LANG YUNG KWENTO O KAYA SOCIAL RELEVANCE... KUNG MERON PA N'UN.
SUBUKAN KO RIN KAYANG MAG-AUDITIO...
SUSMARYOSEP! ASA KA PA!
GOD FORBID, PARE...

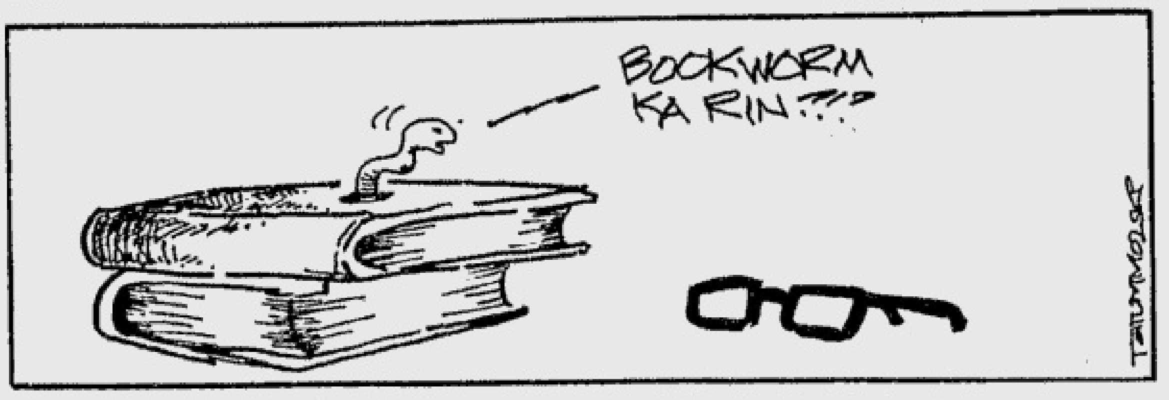
## LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO, ANG PARAISO AY ISANG LUGAR PARA SA MABABAIT AT INOSENTE!!
PARA KINA EBA AT ADAN LAMANG 'YUN PERO NAKAPASOK ANG KONTRA-BIDANG AHAS!! BAKIT NAKAPASOK SIYA DUN?!!
NAG-SQUATTER!!!
CHIONGLO

## TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BOOKWORM KA RIN?!?
TATUM

# What stings like a bee may work for Ali but not your skin

By Anne A. Jambora

As much as it is important to cleanse the skin before going to bed, wrong product choices and ignorance can have devastating effects

SOME people are able to tell you things about yourself by looking at your palm, while others read you by the lines on your face. After all, every crinkle, pucker, furrow or crow's foot has a story to tell. And they say wrinkles give character and depth to an otherwise homely face. But who needs personality when what you really want is to look good?

Pressure from work, school or everyday responsibilities brings about the premature aging of the skin, which you certainly don't need especially when you're at the peak of the dating game or when you simply need to make a good impression during a board meeting. Your skin speaks volumes, and when it does, you better listen well or pay dearly later on.

"Filipinos need to be educated on the proper way to maintain healthy skin," says Claire N. Leonio, Nivea Visage brand manager. She says as much as it is important to cleanse the skin before going to bed, wrong product choices and ignorance can have devastating effects.

THE ESSENTIAL line

THE WHITENING line

### Misconception

Leonio notes the Filipinos' penchant for using astringents. She says the Philippines has the highest per capita astringent use in the world. She points out that most, if not all, astringents have a high alcohol content. "One misconception about astringents is if it stings, it must be working. But that sensation is an absolute no-no in face care. Sadly, people are not aware that (when they feel a) sting, the formulation is too strong and can be damaging to their skin," she says.

Since alcohol is one of the astringent's main ingredients, use of the product causes the skin to be overly dry. Leonio says when the skin is too dry, its natural reaction is to overproduce natural oils, leading to oily skin.

"It's not true that it's in the genetic makeup that Filipinos have shiny faces. Truth is, the continuous use of astringents is one of the culprits," she says. Although some Nivea Visage products contain alcohol, Leonio gives the assurance that the ingredient is used at correct levels, which are a lot less than in other brands.

Nivea Visage launched recently their basic three-step face care—cleanse, tone and moisturize—in Essential and Whitening products. A number of premium brands in the market may be offering the same procedure, but Nivea Visage is one of those that use the highest quality ingredients and advance technology, and sells at 40 percent less than the others.

"All our products are imported. We don't compromise on anything so consumers get value for their money," she says.

### Three-step face care

Nivea Visage Essential has three cleansers—step 1—to choose from: Facial Foam, an oil-free formula with moisturizing agents; Gentle Cleansing Gel, a nondrying gel that removes all traces of makeup and impurities; and Foaming Facial Scrub, an oil-free cleanser with microbeads to exfoliate dead skin cells. Step 2, the Refreshing Toner, has sea minerals and Pro-Vitamin B5 that purify and revitalize skin without stripping it of moisture. Step 3 comes in three variants: Light Daily Moisturizing Crème, Oil-Free Moisturizing Fluid and Tinted Moisturizing Crème.

**CLAIRE Leonio, brand manager, Nivea Visage**

Leonio says another fallacy is that oily skin does not need moisturizers. She explains, "After cleansing the face, the skin has been stripped of its natural moisture. Again, the skin counteracts by overproducing oil that, in the long run, will lead to oily skin. To achieve the right balance, oily skin needs a moisturizer."

The Nivea Visage Whitening is the only one that contains licorice extract proven to lighten the skin tone safely and effectively, Leonio says. "We cannot really say how long these products will take effect since reactions vary from person to person," she says.

For cleansers, there's a choice between Whitening Facial Foam and Foaming Facial Scrub. The Whitening Toner removes impurities as well as firms and conditions the skin. Moisturizers are Natural White Day Moisturizer, with SPF 15 that works best with Natural White Night Repair, and Natural White Tinted Moisturizer that evens out the skin tone.

All products are safe, even for sensitive skin, says Leonio. However, for individuals with extra sensitive skin, she recommends doing a patch test first. "Filipinos must learn how to properly maintain a healthy skin. With the three-step face care, fine lines and premature aging will definitely be prevented."

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# Vacation on a ship that never sleeps

**INNER AWARENESS**

*Jaime T. Licauco*

AFTER AN ABSENCE of about a month, I'm back. But what a journey! I've never taken such a long vacation from work as this. In fact, I've never had a vacation since I left the corporate world in 1989 to devote full time to my former avocation, i.e. conducting seminars, writing books and articles, giving lectures both here and abroad and doing psychic research.

I have rarely been idle mentally or physically. There is always something interesting or important to do. So it was a rather novel experience for me to be completely free of deadlines, or be prepared for lectures and seminars or conduct some research work.

It was my daughter's idea to go on vacation. She took my son's graduation from college in New Hampshire and her birthday in May as excuses for the family to be together. She paid half the price for us to join her and her Cuban-American boyfriend on a seven-day cruise in the Mexican Riviera. It was both a gift for her younger brother who graduated magna cum laude from a US college and a celebration of her birthday, something we've never had together for a long, long time. It was a proposal I couldn't refuse, despite loss of income for a month.

The trip brought us from San Pedro, California port to several parts of Mexico, namely Puerto Villarta, Mazatlan and Ensenada. The original schedule was for the ship to dock last at Cabo de San Lucas, but a hurricane forced it to dock at the smaller Ensenada, Mexico, instead. The ship is 70,367 tons, 855-ft long, and 2,500 passengers, plus 920 crewmembers.

I've never experienced joining an international luxury cruise ship before—and luxurious it is! All throughout the trip there was plenty of food all the time—and I mean 24 hours. Aside from the usual breakfast, lunch and dinner, there was a midnight buffet and 24 hours of ice cream and pizza. Guests can gorge themselves to death and still have plenty of food left. If one is still not satisfied, he can order more food to be brought to his cabin with no extra charge.

I thought I would get bored during the seven-day trip—so I brought along with me three books to read, "Brain Longevity" by Dharma Singh Khalsa, M.D., "The Corporate Shaman" written by my friend Richard Whiteley, and the "Bhagavad Gita," the sacred text of the Hindus. I was not able to read any of them. Entertainment and other activities on the big ship were almost nonstop, from Las Vegas type musicals and variety shows to comedies, magic and international recording artists. There were even two for-adults-only sex comedy shows at midnight.

If one wanted to listen to the music of the '60s and '70s, there was a Filipino band that did just that. If one was inclined to jazz and classical music, there were other lounges for these, too.

On the deck were three swimming pools with slides and a live band that played music from noon till evening. Sunbathing guests sat leisurely around the pools. There was even an enclosed upper deck where "top is optional." That's where my son and my daughter's boyfriend could be found after lunch. Women simply removed the upper parts of their bikinis to sunbathe with no cares in the world. In some late evenings, some people confessed to making love openly on the Lido deck, when they thought nobody was looking. If one has the former president's predilection for gambling, there was a full casino, including table games and slot machines in various denominations. Anything goes on a ship that never sleeps.

In one of the surprise highlights of the entertainment at sea, the cruise director, Greg Kneale, chose three guests to participate in a comedy skit. It was one of the funniest shows in the entire cruise. To top it all, I was chosen to be one of the instant "actors" in the show. I played John, the Hero, who saved a woman from being killed by a maniac who had just escaped from a mental hospital. Kneale remarked the next day in another show that the one who played John, the Hero, was his favorite character. I became an instant celebrity during the rest of the cruise.

Just to show you how popular I had become on that cruise, listen to this. My wife and I went to see another live show the next day, where Kneale was interviewing three housewives on stage, about the first time their husbands made love to them. "Was it like 4th of July, Thanksgiving or Memorial Day?"

We were late for the show. My wife saw a vacant seat in the front row. When we walked toward the seat, the whole audience burst out laughing and clapping. So I acknowledged their greeting by facing them and raising my hand. The more they clapped and laughed. So Kneale turned around to see what the commotion was all about and saw me about to take a seat. He uttered the funny one-liner I said during the show and the audience exploded in an uproar. Then he said, "If you didn't see the show last night, you missed something very funny. But don't worry, we will play it on video in your cabin this afternoon and evening." So more people recognized me after that. My kids said afterward that they had never in their lives seen me act that funny before.

But the offshoot of this whole month vacation is that I enjoyed it so much, I didn't want to get back to work anymore. My brain was still on vacation for a couple of weeks after I had come back from Mexico. I felt lazy to write or conduct a seminar. Were it not for my obligation to go to Bangkok to address the World Forum on Management Education last week, I still would be in the doldrums for another month. But, not to worry, my brain is slowly coming back to life again, I hope.

*E-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit website at www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco*

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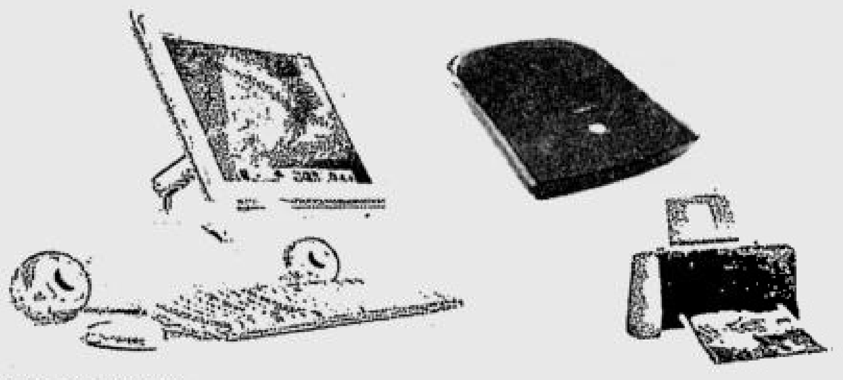
Apple Promo Specials!



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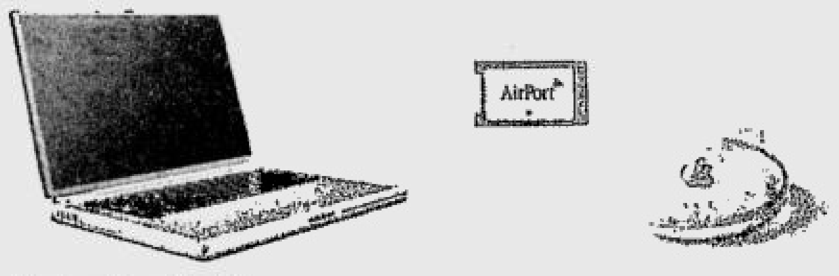

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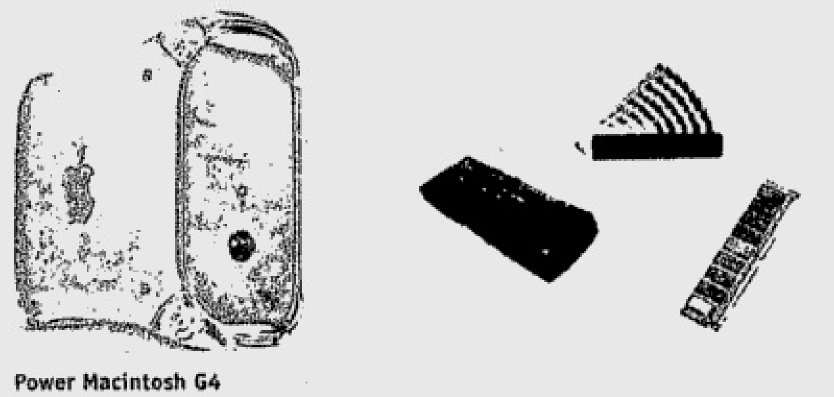

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# To drink or not to drink

From page C1

heavy consumption can weaken the heart muscles (a condition called cardiomyopathy).

It is also difficult for health organizations to recommend alcohol because of the potential for abuse. Alcohol dependency won't just damage your health; it will also ruin your family. Anyone who has lived with an alcoholic will tell you that it can be a living hell.

Another reason for the reluctance to recommend alcohol to improve health is that there are conflicting findings. For example, heavy drinking is associated with an increased risk in heart failure, but a large study found that non-drinkers had the highest rate of heart failure. There is definitely a need for more research to clarify the issues about alcohol and your health.

So, should you take alcohol as a daily health supplement? That choice is one that only you can make. But before you do, consider the pros and cons from data compiled by dietician Susan Kundrat in the Idea Health & Fitness Source Magazine.

### What is moderate drinking?

The definition that is used by the 2000 US Government's Dietary Guidelines for Americans is one drink a day for women and two drinks a day for men.

A drink is technically defined as 15 g of ethanol. This corresponds to 12 oz of regular beer, 5 oz of wine, and 1.5 oz of 80-proof distilled spirits.

The Dietary Guidelines for Americans as well as the American Medical Association, says that the following people should abstain from alcohol.

- Children and adolescents
- Those who cannot restrict their drinking to moderate levels
- Women who may become pregnant or who are pregnant
- Those who plan to drive, operate machinery or take part in other activities that require attention, skill or coordination.
- People taking prescription or over-the-counter medications that can interact with alcohol.

### French paradox

The alcohol-is-good-for-your-health hoopla started about 20 years ago when scientists noticed that the French had a lower incidence of heart disease in spite of a diet high in saturated fat (cheese, butter, etc.). It turned out the protective factor was red wine. Last year, researchers claimed to have found the specific substance in red wine that is responsible for the French paradox. They are pigments called polyphenols that are found in the skin of grapes. Polyphenols reduce blood clotting, decrease LDL or "bad" cholesterol, increase HDL or "good" cholesterol, prevent plaque from forming in the blood vessels as well as keep the blood vessels flexible.

However, polyphenols can't be the only substance responsible because other studies have shown that drinkers of all types of alcoholic beverages also have higher HDL cholesterol and less clotting.

> Alcohol is a double-edged sword. While moderate consumption has a protective effect on the heart, heavy consumption can weaken the heart muscles

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

### Alcohol and cancer

According to the American Cancer Society, alcohol is a recognized cause of cancer of the mouth, pharynx, larynx, esophagus, liver and breast. They believe it also increases the risk of getting colon cancer.

Research has discovered that women who drink as little as one to two drinks per day are at a higher risk for getting breast cancer. This may be because alcohol increases estrogen levels.

They also theorize that alcohol destroys the DNA in the mammary gland cells. This would make the cells more prone to cancer as well as increase the likelihood of spreading to other areas of the body.

However, critics point out that the relationship between alcohol and breast cancer is still controversial because alcohol drinking is associated with other harmful behaviors like poor nutrition, drug taking and smoking that may also play a role in a woman's risk in developing cancer.

### Alcohol and high blood pressure

Heavy drinkers who reduced their alcohol intake or abstained completely were able to decrease their systolic blood pressure (how much pressure is in your blood vessels when your heart pumps) by 3.3 points and their diastolic (how much pressure is in your blood vessels when your heart is resting between beats) by 2 points.

Even small decreases in blood pressure can lower the risk of heart attack and stroke in people with hypertension.

### Alcohol and diabetes

The American Diabetes Association states that diabetics whose condition is well controlled can drink alcohol as long as it is consumed with meals and in moderation. Drinking alcohol on an empty stomach or in excessive amounts is not wise since hypoglycemia (low blood sugar levels) can occur.

However, diabetics should be aware that alcohol can lower blood sugar levels for as long as eight to 12 hours and these effects can be confused with the effects of alcohol. In other words, a diabetic could think that he is just tipsy when actually he is already experiencing hypoglycemia.

A 15-year study on 8,000 men found that the men who drank 10 or more drinks per week were twice as likely to develop type 2 diabetes as those who only drank 5-10 drinks a week.

Yet there are other studies that indicate that people who consume moderate amounts of alcohol are less likely to develop diabetes. A recent study found that women who drank one or two drinks a day experienced positive effects on their insulin and triglyceride levels.

These kinds of conflicting results prevent responsible health professionals from making definitive recommendations regarding alcohol's health benefits.

### The bottom line

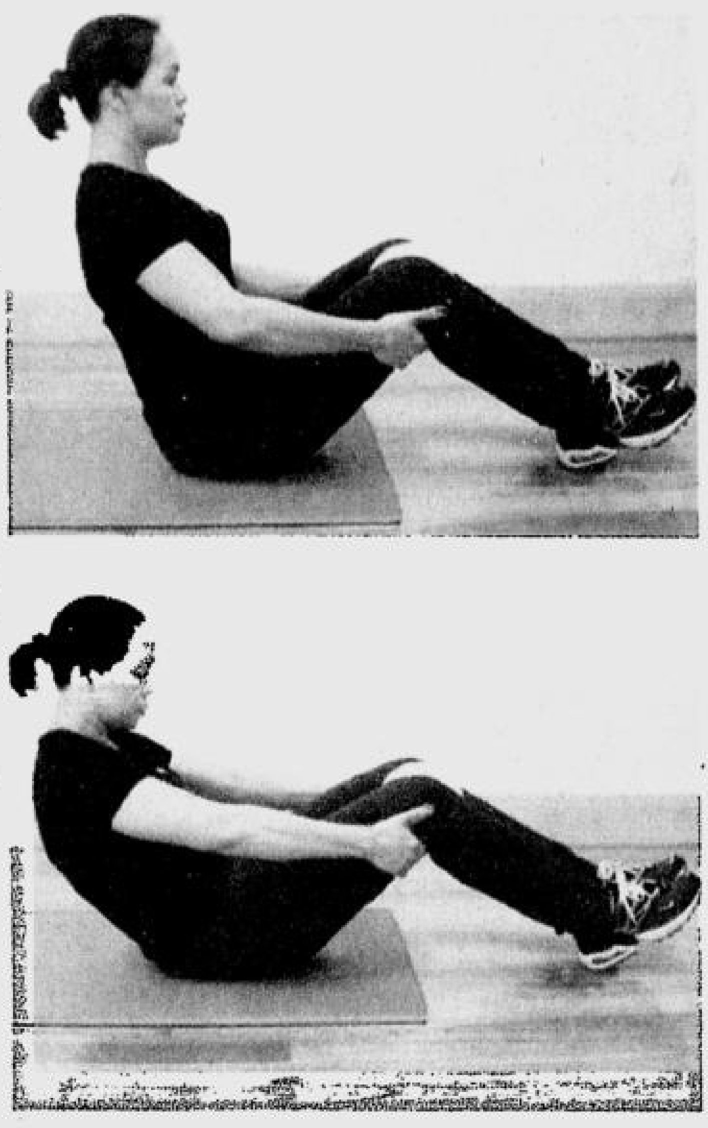
If you already drink regularly, keep your alcohol intake to one drink a day if you are a woman, and two drinks a day if you are a man. If you don't drink, why start? Until research can conclusively say alcohol is necessary for your health, there are other ways to keep your heart healthy (good nutrition, regular exercise, managing stress).

*The Sports Medicine Association of the Philippines (SMAP) will hold its Basic and Advance Course every last Saturday of the month starting June 29 at the UST Medicine Building. It is open to physicians, nurses, physical therapists, fitness trainers, PE teachers, and athletic coaches. Call 521-9123 or 522-2374, or e-mail sportsmedphil@yahoo.com.*

*Watch "In Fitness & In Health" on Studio 23 (Channel 42 on Destiny Cable), Mondays to Fridays, 6-6:30 a.m.*

*For past articles or exercises, go to www.tinajuanfitness.com*

## EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



## Half sit-up with ball

STRENGTHENS the abdominal muscles as well as the inner thighs.

**Equipment**

Medicine ball (child's rubber ball or rolled-up towel)

**Exercise technique**

1. Sit down with the ball or towel in between the knees and hands under the thighs.
2. On an exhale, lean back by pulling abs towards your spine and simultaneously squeezing the ball with your inner thighs.
3. On an inhale, pull up straight and release tension on the ball.

**Performance tips**

1. Don't just allow your spine to passively curve backwards. Consciously contract and pull the abdominal muscles toward the spine to create a "scooped" abdomen.
2. Watch that you don't sink into your chest and allow your chin to touch your chest.
3. To make the exercise more advanced, you can bring your arms straight in front of you at shoulder level.

**Repetitions**

One set of 10 repetitions

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# Take Charge Doc!

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

MEDICard

**Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday.**

## FAQs (frequently asked questions)

***The company I work for has been a MEDICard member for some time now. Soon however, I will be leaving the company. Is it possible to continue my MEDICard membership from a corporate to an individual program?***

Yes, you may continue your membership under an individual healthcare program. You must formalize in writing your intent to transfer from your corporate program to an individual account at least two weeks before you leave your company. It is essential that your new HMO program begin on the day your corporate program terminates. When your transfer is in effect, the new applicable premium rates, as well as the terms and conditions under this new program will now apply.

## Meet your MEDICard Team

**Dr. Mercedes Pascual Viduya** has more than 18 years of experience in her profession as a medical practitioner. She is MEDICard's accredited specialist based in Makati Medical Center. "Doktora" Viduya, as she is fondly called, finished her degree in Medicine at the FEU-NRMF. She took her residency training for her specialization in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Makati Medical Center. Today, she also subspecializes in OB-Gynecology Ultrasound. Dr. Viduya, who is a Fellow to the Philippine Obstetrics and Gynecological Society, is married to military officer, Maj. Josefino Viduya with whom she has two children. "Doktora" is a family oriented loving mother, but she still finds time for herself to enjoy her favorite pastime: reading, dancing and watching television. You may visit her for your consultation needs at Room 375 of the Makati Medical Center, Mondays to Saturdays, except Fridays, from 1 to 5 in the afternoon.

## Contract Signing

AMI
AMI SEMICONDUC

**AMI SEMICONDUCTOR PHILIPPINES, INC.** signed its healthcare program agreement with MEDICard in a contract signing held at the Vivere at the Richville Regency Suites at the Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang. Present during the signing were (seated L -R) Nestor Raneses (AMI Exec. Director of Quality & Test Operation), Christopher Layton (AMI President & GM), Dr. Nicanor Montoya (MEDICard President), Eloisa Espiritu (AMI Corp. Services Director) & Pia Reyes (MEDICard Corp. Accounts Manager); (Standing L-R) Maricel Lajo (MEDICard Accounts Manager), Cynthia Bajet (AMI Company Nurse), Miriam Villafuerte (MEDICard Asst. Manager-Mktg. Services), Dr. Nicky Montoya (MEDICard Medical Director), Voltaire Victoria (MEDICard Mktg. & Sales Manager) & Luis Montoya (MEDICard EVP & GM)

**We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e -mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.**

**For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 840-2020 local 2017 and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. For group or corporate membership, dial local 2049 and look for a membership consultant.**

**TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com.**

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# Guide to wellness of body, mind and spirit

INSIDE OUT

*Cory Quirino*

LAST week, I shared with you a unique guide to wellness that embodied body, mind and spirit. The first 11 rules, I am sure, must have aroused your curiosity. Here are the next eleven, guaranteed to hold your interest. From the book "The 22 (Non-Negotiable) Laws of Wellness" by Greg Anderson (National Book Store).

12. **The Law of Present Moment Living**—Be here—now. Think thoughts that support life. If you think negative thoughts that make you wallow in misery, then you are polluting your present moment. Think positive and live in the now. There is power in living for the moment.

13. **The Law of Mindfulness**—Where do you focus your attention? Look for the incredible in the common place. Find meaning in everything you do. Concentrate on what you have, not what you have lost.

14. **The Law of Creativity**—It is said that everything is created twice—first, mentally, then physically. You either design your life or let others design it for you. The law reminds you that living a life by default—one that was chosen for you by habit, obligation or coercion, is half a life. This means you are half dead. The power to create and even recreate your life is in your hands.

15. **The Law of Lifetime Growth**—Want to discover the fountain of youth? Everyone—young, old, rich, poor, healthy or sick—has the capacity to learn, to evolve, to grow, to heal. The most up-to-date research in gerontology has uncovered a shocking conclusion: As much as 80 percent of what we now call "old age" is not related to biology. Instead, its roots lie in expectations and attitudes. "So, if you think old, you will act old, you will be old."

Here's a recipe for a natural facelift:

¼ cup of raw oatmeal
2 tbsps cold water

Mix until you make a paste. Apply all over your face avoiding the eye area. Leave on for 5 minutes. Rinse with cool water. You may cover eyes with cotton.

You can also use half an avocado. Mash the avocado into a paste. Apply the avocado on the face avoiding the eye area. Leave on for 5 minutes. Cover your eyes with cotton pads dipped in cold water.

16. **The Law of Life Mission**—If you have a purpose, you have everything. What is your reason for existing? Have you found your perfect self-expression? Your personal destiny awaits you now. Pursue it, fulfill it.

17. **The Law of Purpose Through Service**—Albert Einstein could not have said it more eloquently: "Try not to become a man of success but rather try to become a man of value." There is magic in this law. It spells out service to others as the only mission of meaning. Care for others. Choose your cause. Success in life is not measured by wealth or power, rather by people whose lives we have touched through service.

18. **The Law of Stewardship**—The concept of ownership is dwarfed by a larger idea—stewardship. All we have, including this earth, is not really ours. It is ours to use responsibly for a while but we have to leave it behind and pass it on to the next generation.

19. **The Law of Forgiveness**—Clutter your life with the 3R's—resentment, remorse and recrimination, and you will surely have anger, guilt and hostility in your heart. The quiet miracle of forgiveness will erase all of these. But first, you must forgive yourself before you forgive others.

20. **The Law of Gratitude**—Give thanks. Affirm the good things. Ingratitude leads to bitterness and eventually ill health. Life in itself is a blessing. Count your blessings today! A grateful heart is one open to more blessings. Repeat this thanksgiving affirmation to yourself as often as you can: "With thanks and full faith, I bless myself and my life."

21. **The Law of Personal Peace**—World peace can only begin with inner peace. It begins with you. In the midst of life's battles, we can become war-weary. It is time to withdraw and detach your self. It is the way of the spiritual warrior. Make peace with yourself first, then make peace with others.

22. **The Law of Unconditional Loving**—The answer to the question "What is the loving thing to do?" To respond to life or others with love is to act with courage—sans ego or pride. Love creates. By loving, we become co-creators with God of a world with endless possibilities. Practice little acts of love everyday and watch your life unfold.

With the 22 laws of wellness, you are on your way to living a more fulfilled life. Love and light!

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